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Sports, B1

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ST. JOSEPH

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

The St. Joseph City Commission has approved plans for major repairs to be made to the Howard Family Trail Bridge in St. Joseph.

Trail bridge to close for repairs

Bridge over tracks should re-open for summer season

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

The Howard Family Trail Bridge is expected to be closed, starting in March, when repairs are made to steel beams and joists, and re-open by June 1.

ST. JOSEPH — The Howard Family Trail Bridge over the CSX railroad will close in early March for repairs after rust and corrosion were found in steel beams and joists during an inspection.

The repairs are expected to cost about $156,500, including $16,000 to install erosion control at the substructures on the bluff side. Greg Grothous, deputy director of parks and grounds, told the St. Joseph City Commission on Monday that he expects the repairs to be completed and the bridge to be reopened by June 1.

"If we don't address it soon it could become a structural issue," Grothous said. He said some of the deterioration is due to salt having been applied to the bridge for several years during the winter. He said the bridge should not have been salted. He said a posted sign states that the bridge may be slippery and people using it in the winter are doing so at their own risk.

The work will be performed by Anlaan Corp. of Grand Haven, the same contractor that built the bridge in 2002, so it is familiar with the structure. The original cost was $1.3 million. Grothous said the base bid for restoration of the first 250 feet (where the damage is) of the 1,600-foot bridge beginning at Lake Street, covering the ramps leading down to the main span of the bridge, is $139,000. The price does not include the replacement of components that may be determined to require replacement as the work progresses, such as deck boards, railing balusters or steel beams.

Wood deck sealing is an option at a cost of $1,500,

See **BRIDGE**, page A8

Coronavirus: Will it end or will it endure?

Some experts believe containment is now not possible

By LISA M. KRIEGER
The Mercury News

Steve Parsons / AP

A man in protective clothing cleans the County Oak Medical Centre GP practice which has been temporarily closed "because of an urgent operational health and safety reason," following reports a member of staff there was one of those infected with coronavirus, in Brighton, England, on Monday.

Will the new coronavirus now ravaging China ever go away? Or is it here to stay, causing ongoing misery?

The answer depends on two possible outcomes: China, the epicenter of the outbreak, gets the virus under control – or it doesn't, and permanent new epicenters of infection spring up in poorer, more desperate nations.

Time is of the essence, according to leading infectious disease experts. Since the virus was first identified in December, the number of casualties in China has skyrocketed, with more than 37,000 cases and 800 deaths, surpassing SARS fatalities in 2003, according to Chinese health officials. While the rest of the globe has effectively isolated the world's most populous nation, such extreme measures can't go on forever.

Then this coronavirus could join the many other viruses, such as chickenpox, the flu and common cold, which forever circulate the globe, seasonally waxing and waning – until medicines or vaccines save the day.

"Once you get critical mass, it is very hard for tried and true public health approaches to make an impact," said Dr. Robert R. Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

So far, there's no containment in China. But – here's the good news – the spread of coronavirus outside China remains somewhat limited,

See **VIRUS**, page A8

ST. JOSEPH

Water testing to be simplified

City has mailed out new instructions for residents

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — City residents who recently received letters about how to test their water for lead will soon get a follow-up letter outlining a simpler process.

Under state regulations, all public water systems in Michigan were required to notify residents and property owners with services that are verified to include any lead components, services where lead portions have been removed but where galvanized pipes previously connect to lead remain, or where the system believes there are likely lead components – even if not verified.

City Manager John Hodgson told the St. Joseph City Commission Monday that the city sent out 3,300 letters offering to reimburse residents who obtained a water test kit form the state drinking water laboratory, took the water samples, returned them for analysis and provided the results to the city to help officials gain a more full understanding of the system. Residents are not mandated to take part in the testing.

"This is not required; the city's drinking water meets the state water quality standards, but we believed it is an important service to provide," Hodgson said in a memo to city commissioners. The letter to residents stated that the city would provide reimbursement of $30, which was to include the $18 test and the cost of mailing the samples to the lab.

Hodgson said the city was since contacted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) saying a different, more expensive test is recommended. It costs $52 and is larger and heavier to ship and therefore would be more expensive to mail back, the city manager said.

He said EGLE and city staff worked out a plan that will use the recommended test kits while simplifying the process for residents. EGLE will provide a limited number of the test kits to the city to have on hand for residents to pick up at city hall. Or, residents can call the state to have a kit delivered, and EGLE will bill the city. Residents will take the samples, repackage the kits in their boxes and return the boxes to city hall, and the city will deliver them to the state laboratory.

The lab will send the result to the city via email and to residents via U.S. mail.

Samples must be returned to city hall no later than April 30. Hodgson said letters are being sent explaining the simplified process.

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Lakeshore to review building needs

District to start drafting comprehensive facilities study

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

STEVENSVILLE — Not everyone at Lakeshore Public Schools will be relaxing on their day off next Monday for President's Day.

Superintendent Phil Freeman and Director of Operations Nick White will be leading professionals from Kingscott Associates through each school building as they start the process of drafting the district's first facilities study in more than a decade.

"A team of engineers and architects will come through and dig through all of our facility closets, electrical rooms, and see where we're at with every bit of the building," White said Monday during a work session with Lakeshore school board trustees.

Freeman said they will be looking at what each building's "guts" are doing. He said this is just the first step in the facilities study, with the process likely to take more than a year as district officials seek input from the staff and the community.

White said it's important to educate the community on what the district's needs are.

"People tend to make good decisions when they are informed," he said.

White said the last facilities study was done in 2007. Because of the Great Recession from 2007 to 2009, a request for a millage wasn't put before voters until 2011, which was turned down.

School officials then split the request in half, with the first part passing in 2013. The second half was voted down twice – in November 2017 and May 2018. The $21 million bond request would have paid for upgrades in technology, safety and security and energy efficiency.

"There's a whole list of items that have just been pushed off and have not yet been done," White said.

Freeman said some of the projects have been paid for through the district's voter-approved sinking fund money. Others have been paid for

See **LAKESHORE**, page A8

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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6 50645 49085 0

Fire sale: An Iran plant makes the U.S. flags protesters burn

By NASSER KARIMI and MOHAMMAD NASIRI
Associated Press

Ebrahim Noroozi / AP

Workers print U.S. flags on Saturday using a silkscreen, at the Diba Parcham Khomein factory in Heshmatieh village, a suburb of Khomein city, in central Iran. Workers at a small Iranian factory diligently add all 50 stars and 13 bars to American flags while carefully imprinting the Star of David on those of Israel.

KHOMEIN, Iran — Near the hometown of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, workers at a small Iranian factory diligently add all 50 stars and 13 red-and-white bars to what are supposed to be U.S. flags, and carefully imprint the blue Star of David on Israeli ones.

That's even as all their work is destined to go up in flames.

The company Diba Parcham Khomein serves as a major producer for the American and Israeli flags constantly burned at pro-government rallies in the Islamic Republic. Such flag-burnings are a sign of support for Iran's embattled clerical rulers and a throwback to the iconic images of the 1979 Islamic Revolution that branded the U.S. Iran's greatest foe and the "Great Satan."

Another batch of flags is being prepared for the 41st anniversary of the Iranian revolution on Tuesday. The celebrations will take on special symbolic importance amid renewed tensions with Washington after a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad killed Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani, last month.

Yet the factory's owner, like many middle-class Iranians, holds out hopes for better relations between Tehran and the U.S.

"I hope there is a day that the flags we produce are presented as a gift," factory owner Abolfazl Khanjani told The Associated Press.

That day, however, has yet to come to Khomein, a city best known as the birthplace of the Islamic Republic's founder.

The factory itself is in the nearby suburban village of Heshmatieh, where staffers first dye the blue canton containing the 50 white stars of the American flag on linen before dyeing its seven red stripes.

The flags then hang to dry in the factory. As Iran does not recognize Israel as a country, the factory adds "Death to Israel," written in Farsi on those flags, workers said. Iran itself continues to support anti-Israeli militant groups like Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Diba Parcham Khomein produces 1.5 million flags a year, many bearing Islamic phrases for religious and official occasions across the country. The factory also makes Iranian flags and a small number of Iraqi national flags for export.

But on a recent visit by the AP, the American and Israeli flags stood out, each 1.5 meters by 1 meter (59 inches by 39 inches). The factory makes as many as 6,000 American, British and Israeli flags in a year, all destined to be passed onto retailers. Iranian political hard-liners then purchase them for around $2 apiece to be stomped on, torn and ultimately set ablaze.

"In recent years, the production of the U.S. flags has been tripled," Khanjani said. "What eventually happens to my products is on its end user."

Khanjani, 36, identifies himself as supporting Iranian reformist groups that want to slowly change, and open up, the Islamic Republic. But he acknowledged the anger hard-liners feel toward the U.S. Tensions have particularly been high since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in May 2018.

In the time since, regional tensions across the Mideast have steadily worsened, leading to the Jan. 3 U.S. drone strike in Iraq that killed Soleimani as he was leaving Baghdad's international airport.

Smiling images of Soleimani and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ai Khamenei appeared on small Iranian flags in the factory, hanging behind women working at sewing machines on American flags.

Khanjani said burning the American flag offered Iranians a direct way to express their anger at U.S. policies, including the economic sanctions now choking the country.

"Does the production of U.S. flags for burning pose any danger to anyone? Does it hurt anyone? My answer is no. It is an insult at worst," he said. "But what about the production of weapons, bombs and drones for terror that have been used against our people and our country's general? Has it not harmed my country?"

That was a sentiment shared by Khanjani's sister Azam, who also works at the factory.

"The martyrdom of our general was a big torment for us and this year as I sewed every flag, I was excited that they were going to be burned," she said. "My feeling is just hatred when I sew them. It does not give me a good feeling."

Parisa Mahmoudi, another worker, said she focused her anger on Trump while working.

"I have no problem with the American people but I dislike their president," she said. "We have no problem with anyone but do not know why he is hostile with us."

The factory has 40 workers, including 25 women from nearby villages who earn monthly salaries of up to $400. Khanjani declined to offer earnings information for the factory, but said it turns a single-digit profit yearly.

Despite expressing anger at U.S. policies, Khanjani said his factory's decision to supply the flags for burning is a business move, fulfilling a demand from consumers. He showed AP journalists a picture painted by his 8-year-old son, Aria, showing the flags of Iran and the U.S. next to each country's president.

The caption for the painting reads: "The president of the U.S. has shaken the hand of Iranian president and they have become friends."

LOTTERIES

Monday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
QD-3C-10C-2H-6H
Midday Daily 3
4-7-5
Midday Daily 4
8-5-0-4
Daily 3
1-7-6
Daily 4
1-5-2-9
Fantasy 5
13-26-30-35-39
Keno
02-04-05-14-17-18-19-21-27-37-43-46-47-51-54-56-58-61-63-64-65-77
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $202 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: $70 million

Sunday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
17-24-29-33-39
Estimated jackpot: $174,500
Cash4Life
04-15-27-45-54, Cash Ball: 4
Quick Draw Midday
01-05-10-11-13-20-32-35-45-47-49-55-59-63-66-68-69-72-73-75, BE: 45
Daily Three-Midday
7-3-2, SB: 6
Daily Three-Evening
6-7-1, SB: 4
Daily Four-Midday
9-9-5-6, SB: 6
Daily Four-Evening
2-4-0-3, SB: 4
Quick Draw Evening
04-05-06-16-19-24-26-35-39-43-47-59-62-64-67-69-71-75-77-78, BE: 5

Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
07-16-32-35-39
Pick Three-Midday
8-7-0, Fireball: 5
Pick Three-Evening
2-8-0, Fireball: 3
Pick Four-Midday
3-2-8-8, Fireball: 1
Pick Four-Evening
8-8-6-9, Fireball: 5
Lucky Day Lotto
13-15-18-25-38
Estimated jackpot: $950,000

– The Associated Press

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The ins and outs of polling science

By TOM AVRIL
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — From her cubicle in a quiet New Jersey office park, Maryann Hand called voter after voter in Iowa with this public-service appeal:

"Your participation is very important because only 500 people have been randomly selected for this survey," she read from a script. "Your views will represent many people throughout the state."

But would they? It was the week before the Iowa caucuses, and most people chose not to speak with Hand and her colleagues in the Mount Laurel office of Braun Research, calling on behalf of the Monmouth University Polling Institute. After four evenings they finally got 544 people, with the biggest share – 23 percent – saying they favored Joe Biden.

Yet in the actual caucuses, as organizers sorted out the chaos from a balky vote-counting app, Biden's support appeared lower than that, behind Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders. Did Monmouth (and plenty of other pre-Iowa polls) get it wrong?

Not at all, if you consider what polling really measures.

Polling is not designed to predict what will happen on an election day. It merely provides an estimate of what people are thinking at a given moment before election day, within that range you hear about so often on the news: the margin of error.

Here's how it works.

It's all about the sample

The fundamental math behind sampling has been well-established for centuries, allowing pollsters to get a reliable sense of how a large population of people is thinking by calling just a few hundred of them, provided they were chosen at random.

An explanation would require a blackboard full of equations, but the end result makes intuitive sense. The more people a pollster calls, the higher the chance of getting an accurate result – that is, the narrower the margin of error. If we polled everyone, we would know how everyone felt – a margin of error of zero. But even if we survey just 500 people in a large population, it turns out the margin of error is still fairly narrow. Do the calculations, and the margin for this sample size is plus or minus 4.4 percentage points, using what's called a 95percent confidence interval.

That means if you could somehow conduct the poll again and again an infinite number of times – calling a new group of 500 people each time – the result would fall within 4.4 points of the true number on 95percent of those occasions.

Here's an example: Let's say that in a group of one million people, the actual level of support for Candidate X is 42percent, though of course we don't know that. The first time we poll 500 people, perhaps 41percent of them will say they like the candidate. Maybe next time, we'd get 43percent or 44percent, followed by 42percent a few times in a row. Over time, most of the results would fall between 38percent and 46percent. Plot all those points on a graph, and results cluster toward the center, forming a shape called a bell curve.

The more people a pollster calls, the narrower the margin of error. But there are diminishing returns, said Mack C. Shelley II, an Iowa State University professor of political science and statistics. Calling 2,000 people – four times as many – would reduce the margin of error only by half.

Be wary of the "horse race" trap. In the Monmouth poll, the four candidates with the highest totals – Biden, Sanders, Buttigieg, and Elizabeth Warren – were bunched so closely together that institute director Patrick Murray could not say which was ahead. With a 4.4-point margin of error, a candidate needs to be at least 8.8 points ahead of an opponent for a statistician to say with confidence that he or she was truly in the lead.

The same goes for saying that a candidate has "gained" from one poll to the next. Unless the percentage changes by a lot, be careful.

"Polls were never the precise measures that the media tended to portray them as," Murray said.

As for why the Monmouth poll and other pre-Iowa results did not match the caucuses, Murray's results indicate that many voters made up their minds after the polls were taken (a common occurrence in early-stage primaries, with lots of candidates). What's more, turnout appeared to be low among voters from some demographic groups.

Weighting matters

Which brings us to weighting. This is a statistical technique a pollster uses to ensure that the demographics in a sample of 500 people mirror those of the population at large.

Let's say that our group of 500 includes 250 women – 50percent. But if the voting population is actually 51percent female, we should have called 255 women. To compensate, the pollster would give a bit more statistical weight to each woman's response. Instead of counting as a response from one person, it would count as 1.02 (255 divided by 250).

The key is to do this for the right characteristics – those that tend to be associated with varying levels of support for political views, said Courtney Kennedy, director of survey research at the Pew Research Center in Washington.

If women under age 40 are more likely to vote a certain way, then pollsters need to make sure they account for how many people meet that description. Age, gender, party affiliation, and ethnicity all are commonly used to weight samples. Pollsters also try to identify people who are likely voters, either by asking them or using voting records.

But no one answers the phone

Decades ago, before the advent of caller ID and cell phones, pollsters commonly achieved response rates above 50percent. That is, not only did that many people answer the phone, but they also agreed to answer the questions.

These days, pollsters are happy if they succeed with just 5percent of the cell-phone users they try to call. And calls to land lines are not much better – generally below 10percent.

The solution is simple: Call more people. But once again, there is the question of weighting. It turns out that those few people who do answer phone calls from unfamiliar numbers are more likely to have a college degree. And in 2016, people with college degrees were more likely to favor Hillary Clinton. That meant skewed results for state-level polls that failed to ask about education and weight the results accordingly.

Other pollsters have turned to online surveys, which in theory will work just as well – provided they account for any differences between those who agree to participate and those who do not (or cannot, if they lack internet access).

Ask the right questions

Pollsters sometimes grapple with a perception that they try to steer people with leading questions. With certain policy issues ("Do you think a soda tax is a bad idea?"), that might be true if the survey is funded by an advocacy group. Don't be afraid to ask.

But the big-name pollsters, such as those with ties to universities and media outlets, are doing their best to play it straight. In addition to using neutral language, they generally rotate the order in which candidates' names are presented. Warren might be first one time, Amy Klobuchar the next.

That's because people who have not yet made up their minds, when forced to make a choice, are slightly more likely to pick the first or last name they hear – not one in the middle, Monmouth's Murray said.

How come I've never been polled?

Again, math. As an example, look at Pennsylvania, which has 8.5 million registered voters.

Even if pollsters were to conduct 50 polls between now and November, calling 500 people each time, that would add up to at most 25,000 voters – even fewer if by some chance anyone was called by multiple polls.

That number represents just three-tenths of 1percent of the total number of voters. Most people will not hear from a pollster this year – or if they do, they might not recognize the number and decline to pick up.

But for those who do, the math is solid, and their responses will represent a wide swath of the broader public. As for what happens in November, it's anyone's guess.

hp LOCAL & STATE

ROYALTON TWP.

Royalton accepts bids on major park projects

Construction on nature trail, Bicentennial Park to begin in spring

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — After five years of planning, Royalton Township will begin updating the Bacon School Road Nature Trail and Bicentennial Park this spring.

At Monday night's board meeting, trustees chose the lowest bids for the two park projects.

For the Bacon School Road Nature Trail project, the township hired L.E. Barber out of Benton Harbor for about $253,000. The project's total cost, which includes engineering and contingency costs, is $315,000.

The township also hired Pearson Construction of Benton Harbor to compete the Bicentennial Park project. Pearson will be paid about $363,000, where as the total cost for the project is $451,000.

"On Bicentennial, we're going to put in more because the bids came in high," Manager Steve Tilly said. "We're going to spend the extra money to complete the project."

The nature trail project includes parking lot improvements, the addition of wooden boardwalks, fresh aggregate on the trail, recycling bins and benches.

At Bicentennial Park, the improvements would include new playground equipment, a shaded pavilion by the playground, additional sidewalks and new lighting.

Tilly said the most important improvement would be updating the bathrooms, making them accessible in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

"It was time for an update. Those (bathrooms) were up to code in the 1970s, but not now," Tilly said. "Even updating the playground equipment was important. That's not an inexpensive thing anymore."

Monday night's bid approvals were a culmination of five years worth of work, as trustees approved a park master plan in 2016 with the hopes of securing funding.

The township had put together a five-year community recreation plan with changes planned for existing parks.

Tilly said it's been a long time coming.

"We're ready to start construction," Tilly said with a laugh.

Two years after applying, the township finally received two matching grants through the National Park Service in 2018. Each grant was worth $150,000, which were matched by the township.

In order to gain the federal grants, trustees were then required to approve resolutions to accept the project agreements laid out by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Ben Baker, manager of landscape architecture for Wightman, said the plan is to begin construction by April. However, the timeline is dependent on the contractor's schedule.

The focus will first be on completing the pavilion at Bicentennial Park, with the remainder of the park's improvements being completed by July 1.

Baker said they intend to give contractors until the end of the year to finish the Bacon School Road Nature Trail project, due to the scope of the project.

Among the current parks and recreation areas maintained within Royalton Township are Bicentennial Park, the Tryon School Community Center and the wooded trails at the Bacon School Road Nature Trail.

Bicentennial Park has six acres and is next to the Royalton Township Fire Department. The nature trail encompasses more than 30 acres of undeveloped park land with access to the St. Joseph River.

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Mural walk

Don Campbell / HP staff

A man walks by a mural of a farmer's market, painted by Conrad Kaufman in 2005, in downtown South Haven on Monday.

Project CURB poised to beautify South Haven High School exterior

Berm project on east side of school kicks off effort

By HP STAFF

SOUTH HAVEN — A nonprofit group's efforts to make South Haven High School's exterior appearance more appealing is ready to begin its first project.

Over the past several months South Haven Project CURB raised more than $10,000 to undertake the most ambitious of 11 improvements included in the high school's landscape master plan, which was unveiled last fall.

The project entails the creation of a sound reduction berm on the east side of the school that faces LaGrange Street. The 300-foot long berm will consist of 12 deciduous trees, five evergreens and three types of shrubs.

DeBest Inc., a landscaping firm located in the South Haven area, designed the berm and will begin earth work later on this month and plans to complete the project in the spring.

South Haven Project CURB (community uplifting, revitalizing and beautifying) chose to tackle the berm because of the project location's visibility and immediate impact to the school's curb appeal, according to Susan Loafman, publicist for the organization.

School officials are excited for the first landscaping project to occur at the high school, which recently underwent $28 million worth of interior building improvements.

"This project will make an enormous impact on the visual appearance of the high school property and will help create an inspiring and inviting environment for our students, the community and visitors to the district," District Superintendent Kevin Schooley said.

The berm project is the result of collaboration between South Haven Public Schools, Project CURB, deBest Inc. and Armintrout West Michigan Farm with sponsorship from local businesses Apple Insurance, BeachwalkProperties, Beyer Construction, HardtInsurance, Jensen's Excavating, Meijer, South Haven Convention and Visitors Bureau, Timken and Walmart, whose in-kind and/or financial donations will support the project.

"We are so moved by the generosity and support from our local businesses and are excited for our community and Southwest Michigan to see the results of a collective community effort," said Roby Henrickson, of Project CURB.

Project CURB, which formed a year ago, is now continuing fundraising efforts for the next round of high school beautification projects, targeted for fall execution. The group is actively applying for grants and will resume sponsorship solicitation to raise funds. The majority of remaining projects in the high school landscape master plan are estimated to cost between $3,000-$8,000 each. For those interested in partnering with Project CURB, sponsorship details can be found online at sh projectcurb.org/sponsorship. Additionally, donations can be made online at shproject curb.org or mailed to P.O. Box 131 South Haven, MI 49090.

Trump's 2021 budget seeks extra funds for Great Lakes protection

By MALACHI BARRETT
mlive.com

President Donald Trump's fourth budget proposal is the first to recommend fully funding a federal program protecting the Great Lakes.

Trump's $4.8 trillion budget proposal for the 2021 fiscal year includes $320 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a program the president previously tried to cut by 90 percent. Trump's annual budgets require approval from Congress, which rejected the suggested cuts, and his newest proposal seeks $20 million more for the Great Lakes than legislation approved in the U.S. House last week.

Created in 2010, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds multi-agency efforts to target threats to the world's largest freshwater resource on Earth. The most recent action plan seeks to clean up toxic substances in Michigan and other states, prevent the spread of invasive species and rebuild natural habitats, among other goals.

Congress allocated $300 million for the GLRI every year since 2014. Trump's budget proposal asks for $320 million, an increase of 6.7 percent.

Michigan's representatives in Congress have strongly defended funding for the GLRI, saying the program provides vital protections for the environment and the state's tourism and recreation industries. A 2018 University of Michigan study found every dollar of federal spending on GLRI projects between 2010 and 2016 will produce $3.35 in economic activity.

Trump's three prior attempts to drastically cut funding for the program attracted bipartisan opposition from Michigan lawmakers.

See BUDGET, page A4

BERRIEN SPRINGS

RESA names new superintendent

Board pics Lapeer administrator

By RALPH HEIBUTZKI
HP Correspondent

WANDRIE

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Lapeer Community Schools Superintendent Matthew Wandrie has been named the Berrien Regional Educational Service Agency's new educational leader.

Berrien RESA Board members chose Wandrie over their other finalist, Berrien RESA Assistant Superintendent Eric Hoppstock, at a special meeting on Monday, that followed its own regular meeting.

Wandrie will officially take over from retiring Superintendent Kevin Ivers on July 1, said Board President Cathy Bair in a brief news release.

"The Board of Education is pleased to announce the selection of Matthew Wandrie to be our county's next leader," Bair said. "On behalf of the students, educators and administrators across the county, we welcome Mr. Wandrie to the helm on July 1."

The board made its choice after hearing brief overviews from Wandrie and Hoppstock about how they envisioned their first 90 days on the job.

The Michigan Leadership Institute conducted the search for the district.

Wandrie, of Oxford, Mich., has been Lapeer's superintendent since July 2011. He came there from Dearborn Public Schools, where he served as director of human resources. He's worked as an athletic coach, assistant principal, athletic director, high school teacher and principal.

Wandrie holds a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science from Alma College, plus a master's degree in educational administration from Eastern Michigan University, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Ivers announced last spring that he planned to retire when the current school

See RESA, page A4

WATERVLIET SCHOOLS

District completes first phase of strategic plan

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

WATERVLIET — Watervliet Public Schools is one step closer to having a new strategic plan.

Superintendent Ric Seager and Curriculum Director Susan Toothman presented the results of the Phase I of the district's new strategic plan to the school board Monday night.

The presentation included summary information of data gathered, analyzed and assembled for use in the construction of the strategic plan. The data was gathered through focus groups, surveys, assessment data, and individual and group interviews with teachers, board members, parents and students.

Toothman reported some of that assessment data. She said that many of the districts grade levels, in many subjects, are outperforming districts similar to Watervliet, and all the school districts in a state as a whole.

Seager presented data about attendance. He said most of it is in line or better than districts similar to Watervliet, and all the school districts in a state as a whole.

Seager also shared the results of a survey sent out to staff. It found that about 73 percent of district staff reported they were highly engaged and satisfied with working in the district. No one was completely unsatisfied or not engaged at all.

Further results showed staff, parent and student respondents want the district to be premier, successful and at the top of the county in achievement.

Phase I was just about gathering information, while Phase II will focus on why that data is.

"Phase II is exciting because we have all this data and now we can actually get into what it means," Toothman said.

Seager said the next steps are for an external advisory group to meet at the end of the month to construct and articulate the district's mission, vision, values, belief statements and a portrait of a graduate based on the data from the first phase.

From that, Seager said, an internal executive work group will construct action plans and organizational milestones that will make up the body of the strategic plan.

Phase III will address how

See WATERVLIET, page A4

IN BRIEF

BCYF sets meetings for swine exhibitors

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The BCYF Swine Committee has set two mandatory meetings for all 2020 BCYF swine exhibitors and parents.

The first meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 17 for exhibitors whose last name starts with the letters A-L. The second meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 18 for exhibitors whose last name starts with the letters M-Z.

Both meetings will be held in the Youth Memorial Building. At least one parent/guardian must attend this important mandatory meeting.

Topics to be discussed include new breed classes, rule changes in the fair book, feeding requirements for animals information on pork quality classes.

The swine committee urges swine exhibitors and families to help pass the word for these mandatory meetings.

BUDGET

From page A3

"I support the Great Lakes," Trump said on stage at a political rally in the state. "Always have. They are beautiful. They are big, very deep, record deepness, right? And I'm going to get, in honor of my friends, full funding of $300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative."

The president also highlighted the importance of the Great Lakes during a Jan. 30 visit to an auto parts supplier in Warren. Trump, accompanied by several Michigan House Republicans, said his administration will prevent the spread of Asian carp and other invasive species.

"Michigan is a steward of one of our nation's most treasured resources, the incredible Great Lakes," Trump said.

U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga, a co-chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, said Trump's newest budget demonstrates a strong commitment to Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Last week, the U.S. House passed bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the GLRI for six years and boost funding annually to reach $475 million by 2026. The legislation awaits approval in the U.S. Senate.

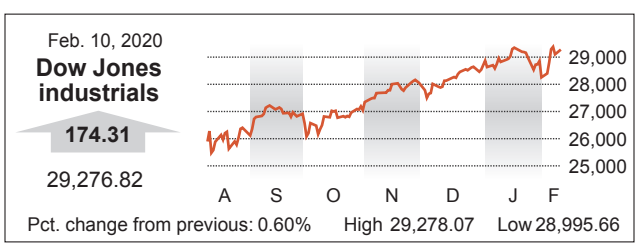
"Having the president engage on this critical issue improves the chances for bipartisan legislation to be signed into law that will protect and strengthen the Great Lakes," Huizenga said in a statement. "I want to thank the President and his Administration for working with me to make the preservation of the Great Lakes a national priority."

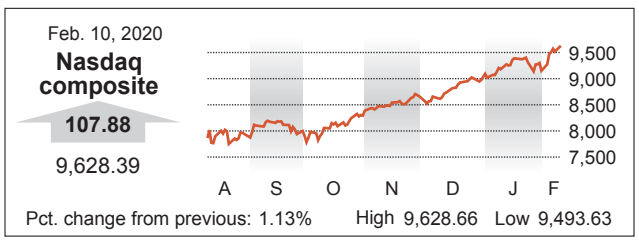
The program is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, which recently announced $11 million in funding for grants to support GLRI projects in Michigan.

Trump's budget proposal also requests a $2.4 billion cut to EPA funding, representing a reduction of 26.5percent. This includes a $179 million cut to protection activities within specific watersheds while leaving Great Lakes funding intact.

The White House also proposed slashing funds for the EPA's hazardous Superfund program, which cleans up some of the most heavily contaminated sites in the country. Michigan is home to nearly 90 Superfund sites, according to the EPA.

MARKETS





Amer Elec Power AEP
$101.92 **+.58 +.6%**
▲ **4-wk.** +7.7% ▲ **YTD** +7.8%

Whirlpool WHR
$149.41 **+.20 +.1%**
▼ **4-wk.** -2.2% ▲ **YTD** +1.3%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	29.67	39.70	38.34	-.11	-0.3	▼	▲	▼
AEP	AEP	79.13	104.97	101.92	+.58	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
Apple Inc	AAPL	169.25	327.85	321.55	+1.52	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	886.95	1274.41	1053.72	-5.19	-0.5	▼	▼	▼
BP PLC	BP	35.07	45.38	36.19	-.18	-0.5	▼	▼	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	52.41	68.98	67.56	+.42	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
CocaCola	KO	44.42	59.45	59.75	+.56	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	36.75	47.74	44.66	-.08	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
Deere	DE	132.68	180.48	168.24	+.79	+0.5	▲	▼	▼
Disney	DIS	107.32	153.41	142.59	+1.57	+1.1	▲	▼	▼
DollarTree	DLTR	85.37	119.71	87.18	+.04	...	▬	▼	▼
ExxonMbl	XOM	59.89	83.49	59.96	-.64	-1.1	▼	▼	▼
FifthThird	FITB	24.17	31.64	29.40	-.09	-0.3	▼	▼	▼
1stSource	SRCE	41.88	53.42	47.58	-.08	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
FordM	F	8.02	10.56	8.06	-.05	-0.6	▼	▼	▼
GenElec	GE	7.65	13.09	12.91	+.08	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	179.52	239.53	240.61	+3.31	+1.4	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	15.21	19.48	17.14	-.14	-0.8	▼	▼	▼
HuntBncsh	HBAN	12.15	15.63	13.93	-.03	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
IDEX	IEX	141.47	176.70	174.47	+3.12	+1.8	▲	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	126.85	158.75	154.43	+1.02	+0.7	▲	▲	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	98.09	141.10	137.74	+.57	+0.4	▲	▲	▼
JohnJn	JNJ	126.10	154.50	151.86	-.03	...	▬	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	91.60	123.14	121.21	-.27	-0.2	▼	▲	▲
McDnlds	MCD	178.27	221.93	213.21	+1.60	+0.8	▲	▲	▲
Microsoft	MSFT	104.97	185.63	188.70	+4.81	+2.6	▲	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	33.94	49.88	40.80	+.17	+0.4	▲	▲	▼
Penney	JCP	0.53	1.92	.71	+.02	+2.5	▲	▼	▼
Perrigo	PRGO	40.68	60.48	60.20	+.29	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	33.97	44.56	37.81	-.24	-0.6	▼	▼	▼
ProctGam	PG	97.75	128.09	126.17	+.09	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
RepubSvc	RSG	76.13	97.54	97.83	+.69	+0.7	▲	▲	▲
Steelcse	SCS	14.45	23.02	19.08	-.02	-0.1	▼	▼	▼
Stryker	SYK	174.84	223.45	217.23	+2.42	+1.1	▲	▲	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	35.96	47.71	43.04	+.07	+0.2	▲	▼	▼
Target	TGT	70.03	130.24	116.98	+1.37	+1.2	▲	▼	▼
TractSupp	TSCO	88.02	114.25	97.53	+.98	+1.0	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	92.65	125.31	103.07	-.05	...	▬	▼	▼
VerizonCm	VZ	54.26	62.22	60.24	+.30	+0.5	▲	▲	▼
WEC Engy	WEC	74.14	101.37	100.14	+.39	+0.4	▲	▲	▲
WalMart	WMT	96.53	125.38	115.25	-1.20	-1.0	▼	▼	▼
WalgBoots	WBA	49.03	74.95	53.42	+.18	+0.3	▲	▼	▼
Wendys Co	WEN	16.25	22.84	22.16	+.22	+1.0	▲	▲	▼
Whrlpl	WHR	114.00	163.64	149.41	+.20	+0.1	▲	▼	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	33.18	44.69	38.22	-.08	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
XPO Logis	XPO	45.73	96.20	94.17	+.96	+1.0	▲	▲	▲

Retailers try clothing rental, but will it be a good fit?

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

Seth Wenig / AP Photo

Vara Pikor poses for a picture in front of a "Rent The Runway" store before returning some items in New York, on Nov. 25. Pikor is wearing some of the items she rents from the company, including her dress and earrings. Now a booming $1 billion business, the clothing rental sector is expected to reach $2.5 billion by 2023, says research firm GlobalData. But for traditional retailers, the economics of renting affordable clothing pose significant challenges.

Renting clothes could be the future of fashion – or it could just be a fad.

But traditional retailers can no longer afford to wait on the sidelines to find out. That's why a growing number are now offering customers the option to rent clothes for a monthly fee instead of buying them. Bloomingdale's, Banana Republic and Urban Outfitters are the latest to offer the services. Even footwear chain Designer Brands says it's considering launching a rental service for shoes.

Now a booming $1 billion business, the clothing rental sector is expected to reach $2.5 billion by 2023, according to research firm GlobalData. When combined with resale, it will account for 13 percent of the total $360 billion U.S. clothing market within the decade, up from 7.3 percent today.

Clothing rentals are one more piece of the sharing economy, where customers – particularly those in their 20s and 30s – are less interested in owning or making big investments but still want access to different brands and services, says Steve Barr, consumer markets leader at PwC.

"You no longer have to buy into the myth of continuous consumption and that there's pride in wearing something as opposed to pride in owning something," said Jennifer Hyman, CEO and co-founder of Rent the Runway, which in 2009 pioneered the business model that many retailers are now trying to replicate.

For clothing retailers, rentals offer a glimmer of hope at a time when they are dealing with mounds of unsold goods that often need to be deeply discounted. Several have already gotten into the second-hand business – another popular trend in the sharing economy led by companies like The Real Real and ThredUp.

J.C. Penney and Macy's, for instance, have partnered with ThredUp to sell gently-worn clothes in a couple dozen locations. Nordstrom is testing resale at its women's flagship store in Manhattan and online.

Many in the industry consider these necessary steps as clothing retailers watch their fortunes erode. They, along with department stores, are expected to see their fourth-quarter earnings sink 11.3 percent compared with a 5.7 percent drop for the overall retail sector, according to research firm Retail Metrics LLC. Last year, clothing retailers accounted for an outsized share of retail bankruptcies, according to a recent report by consulting firm AlixPartners.

"Clothing retailers are dealing with pressures on multiple fronts," said Ken Perkins, president of Retail Metrics. "Heavy promotions, chronic traffic declines, e-commerce investment. And now they've got rental and resale services as well. The rental market is small, but it's going to grow, and they have to invest in it."

Christine Hunsicker, CEO and founder of CaaStle, a startup that manages inventory and shipping for retailers, says rental services have anywhere from a 20 percent to 25 percent operating profit compared with only 5 percent for traditional retailers. Last year, Hunsicker's retail clients saw total spending for both renting and buying increase two-fold on average for each customer.

But unlike Rent the Runway, a dedicated rental service for high-end designer clothing, the economics for traditional retailers – from marketing to dry cleaning and shipping, on top of running their normal day-to-day operations – pose significant challenges.

About a dozen retailers, including Banana Republic and Bloomingdale's, have left it to CaaStle to handle the logistics. But Urban Outfitters, which lets shoppers rent their brands as well as outside labels like Reebok and Levi's, is doing it all on its own – a formidable task.

"(Retailers) are very used to marketing products, not services, so it's challenging knowing which customers to message, and how often," Hunsicker said.

Some experts wonder whether it even makes sense for lower-priced clothing chains to get into the rental business since customers could just buy the clothes used, or get them at a deep discount. Also, the clothes may not hold up well after multiple wears, says Rod Sides of Deloitte LLP.

Elizabeth Kashin, 53, of Indianapolis, says she tried Urban Outfitter's Nuuly rental service last month. She never received her package of six items but was charged anyway. After contacting customer service via social media, she got another package but said the clothes didn't look clean.

"I can go to a second-hand store to get a better experience," she said.

Urban Outfitters said that it is constantly listening to feedback so that it can "make the experience even better for Nuuly's subscribers." It says it's on pace to have 50,000 subscribers in the first 12 months of operation.

Retailers also face the same challenges that still dog Rent the Runway. Consumers complain about spotty customer service and a slew of added fees. For example, Rent the Runway charges $50 for every day that a customer is late in returning an item, up to double the retail value of that item.

There is also the issue of too few locations to return rented items. Retail expert Melissa Gonzalez says retailers should have kiosks in their stores in key cities but right now, most don't have any and shoppers must drop off their garment bags at a UPS or the post office. Rent the Runway has five stores and nearly 50 drop-off locations.

Rent the Runway itself has had to adapt to an increasingly demanding customer. It started out with special occasion dresses but its customers now rent on average more than 120 days per year. The New York-based company launched children's wear last year and later unveiled pillows and other home decor items through a partnership with home furnishings retailer West Elm.

Rent the Runway's long-term prospects are still unknown. The company plans to go public but there is no clear timetable. In 2016, it announced that it was profitable but a spokeswoman declined to comment on whether that remains true today.

Nonetheless, retailers continue to follow its lead and hope to end up in a better place.

WATERVLIET

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the plan is implemented.

New hires

In other business, the board hired Laura Baumeister as the finance office accountant and Rita Broekema as director of finance.

The district has had openings in its finance office for most of the school year, relying on part-time help to complete its financial collecting and reporting.

Baumeister, who was employed at Coloma Township before accepting the position, started Monday, while Broekema, who worked for Schoolcraft Community Schools, will start March 2.

Seager said there were 100 applicants for the finance office accountant position and 29 applicants for the director of finance.

State budget

Seager shared some of the education highlights of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposed 2021 budget.

He said he favors, among other thing-s about the proposed budget, the shift toward a weighted funding formula through increases in at-risk funding, special education reimbursement and English Language Learners funds.

"We definitely need money in those areas," he said.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman.

RESA

From page A3

ends, on June 30. He has led the district since 2010.

Monday's decision fulfilled the board's hope of finding a successor for Ivers by mid-February – though the process started last June.

At that time, the board planned to inteview Hoppstock for the job – but pulled the item off its agenda after superintendents from several area districts objected, saying that they preferred to see a formal search conducted.

The board then posted the job and hired Michigan Leadership Institute to conduct the search.

MLI's president, Dave Killips, helped the board develop 10 qualities it wanted to see in its next superintendent, including a track record of progressive leadership, strong communications skills, understanding of the district's vision and mission, and an ability to show forward thinking and solve problems.

The board then chose its three original finalists: Hoppstock, Wandrie and Lakeview Public Schools Superintendent Blake Prewitt, who were all interviewed last week.

The board then eliminated Prewitt from further consideration, and moved on to its final interviews with Hoppstock and Wandrie.

Valentine's Day
Celebrate this special day with flowers for your special someone.
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• Candy
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• Stuffed Animals
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Crystal Springs FLORIST
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(269) 925-1167
www.crystalspringsflorist.com

Ahn Young-joon / AP

Parasite actor Jeong Hyeonjun, left, and his mother Lee Min Jae celebrate as they watch a TV live broadcasting of South Korean director Bong Joon Ho receiving the award for best original screenplay for "Parasite" at the Oscars, at their house in Seoul, South Korea on Monday.

South Koreans explode with joy over 'Parasite' Oscar wins

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and JUWON PARK
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Koreans reacted with rare collective joy Monday after director Bong Joon Ho and his movie "Parasite" won Oscars for best picture and three other categories, good news that came as their country struggles to cope with a new virus from China and its economic fallout.

The movie's wins made history in both the Hollywood and South Korean film industries. The class satire is the first non-English-language film to win best picture in the 92-year history of the Academy Awards, and is the first South Korean movie to ever win an Oscar.

"Can you believe that 'Parasite' won the Academy best picture?" South Korea's biggest newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, said in a headline. "It rewrote the Academy's 92-year-old history."

South Korean social media were overwhelmed with congratulatory messages. Bong, "Parasite" and other Oscar-related news also dominated search terms throughout Monday at major internet portal sites, which had been preoccupied with the outbreak of a virus in China that has killed more than 900 people and sickened tens of thousands of others, mainly in China.

Worries about the virus have been growing in South Korea, where 27 cases have been reported, though no deaths have occurred. Sales at tour agencies, restaurants, movie theaters and department stores have sharply declined, raising worries about the impact on South Korea's already-lagging economy. Opposition parties are accusing the government of ineffectiveness in coping with the outbreak.

But the concerns about the virus and political warfare eased Monday to celebrate Bong's wins.

"It's happy news, like welcome rain, to the Republic of Korea, which is depressed, stagnant and thrown into despair due to Wuhan pneumonia," the main opposition Liberty Korea Party said in a statement. Wuhan is the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak.

President Moon Jae-in and his advisers began a regularly scheduled meeting by clapping their hands to celebrate Bong's wins. Moon later tweeted that he is proud of Bong and his staff and "particularly grateful to them for giving courage and pride to our people who are overcoming difficulties."

"I think this was a great opportunity to let the world know the true value of Korean movies," said office worker Cho Sung-ho, 54. "I think it is very meaningful that the Academy Award this time has acknowledged the superior quality of Korean films."

U.S. Ambassador Harry Harris, who said watched the Academy Awards ceremony with embassy staff, tweeted, "Wow! Congrats Director Bong, Team #Parasite & ROK cinema!"

Hyeonjun Jeong, a 10-year-old "Parasite" actor who remained in Seoul, shouted with joy as he watched a TV broadcast of the awards.

"I thought it would be awesome to get them, and we actually won them," Jeong told The Associated Press. "So I am wondering if I am in heaven."

At Bong's alma mater, Seoul's Yonsei University, students belonging to a school movie club watched the Academy Award ceremony together.

"It's deeply meaningful for Korean movies and this will open the path for further development. It's such a great honor. I'm speechless," said Kim Nam-hoon, 21.

Jeong Ho-cheol, a 26-year-old student, praised Bong for pleasing both movie critics and crowds. "His way of dealing with the underside of Korean society and problems such as rich-poor gaps and the way he expresses those issues are very expressive," he said.

Park Chan-wook, a prominent South Korean movie director who is regarded as Bong's main rival at home, joined the congratulations.

"It is a "huge blessing to work in the same industry as a person as talented as Bong and being able to call him a friend," said Park, who won the Grand Prix at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival for "Oldboy," in an interview with the Munhwa Ilbo newspaper.

Final list of Academy Award winners

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The winners at the 92nd Academy Awards, which were held Sunday at the Dolby Theatre:

Best picture: "Parasite"
Best actor: Joaquin Phoenix, "Joker"
Best actress: Renée Zellweger, "Judy"
Best director: Bong Joon Ho, "Parasite"
Best supporting actor: Brad Pitt, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"
Best supporting actress: Laura Dern, "Marriage Story"
Animated feature: "Toy Story 4"
Animated short film: "Hair Love"
Original screenplay: "Parasite," Bong Joon-ho and Jin Won Han
Adapted screenplay: "Jojo Rabbit," Taika Waititi
Live action short film: "The Neighbors' Window"
Production design: "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"
Costume design: "Little Women"
Documentary feature: "American Factory"
Documentary short subject: "Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl)"
Sound Editing: "Ford v Ferrari," Don Sylvester
Sound mixing: "1917," Mark Taylor and Stuart Wilson
Cinematography: Roger Deakins, "1917"
Film editing: "Ford Vs. Ferrari"
Visual effects: "1917"
Makeup and hairstyling: "Bombshell"
International film: "Parasite," South Korea
Original Score: Hildur Gunadóttir, "Joker"
Original song: "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again," "Rocketman" (Music by Elton John, lyrics by Bernie Taupin)

Equifax breach is the latest of many hacks linked to China

By FRANK BAJAK
AP Technology Writer

Jacquelyn Martin

Attorney General William Barr speaks during a news conference, on Monday, at the Justice Department in Washington, as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General Seth Ducharm looks on. Four members of the Chinese military have been charged with breaking into the networks of the Equifax credit reporting agency and stealing the personal information of tens of millions of Americans, the Justice Department said Monday, blaming Beijing for one of the largest hacks in history.

BOSTON — In 2014, the Obama administration accused five Chinese military agents of targeting Pittsburgh-area industrial companies including Westinghouse Electric, Alcoa and U.S. Steel. Since then, the number of companies allegedly targeted by Chinese hackers has only grown.

Chinese President Xi Jinping assured th en-President Barack Obama in 2015 his military would stop stealing commercial secrets from U.S. companies. The evidence indicates that pledge was short-lived, if it was honored at all.

The latest in a string of China-linked hacking incidents came with the Monday indictment of four members of the Chinese military for breaking into the credit-reporting agency Equifax in 2017. The motives, a s with several others hacks that preceded it, appear to be more about espionage t han stealing trade secrets, cybersecurity experts say.

Among other things, experts who monitor the dark web say they have seen no evidence of data stolen in the Equifax hack – or in an earlier breach of Marriott – being sold to common criminals for ID theft and credit card fraud.

The state-backed Chinese hackers allegedly vacuumed up billions of data points on Americans that could be used to cross-reference data and obtain deep insights into individual lives. The data could be used in the recruitment of spies, and the hackers may have seeded cover identities for Chinese agents inside Equifax's databases, said Priscilla Moriuchi, a former NSA employee now at the cybersecurity firm Recorded Future.

Here are the biggest cases of wholesale data theft blamed on Chinese agents.

Office of personnel management

In a devastating blow to U.S. national security, the personal data of more than 21 million current, former and prospective federal employees was stolen. Although a first hacker was detected in March 2014, a second intruder went undetected until April 2015, by which time data on security clearances, background checks and fingerprint records had been extracted. A House inquiry said the hack was likely the work of "Deep Panda," a group linked to the Chinese military.

Anthem

Hackers stole personal information on nearly 80 million current and former customers and employees of the Indiana-based health insurer over at least seven months ending in January 2015. Two members of a hacking group operating from China were later indicted in the biggest health care hack in U.S. history.

Stolen data included Social Security numbers, birth dates, email addresses, employment details, incomes and street addresses. Anthem said it had no evidence that medical or financial information was taken or than any of the data stolen resulted in fraud.

The security firm Symantec said the hack was believed to be the work of a well-resourced Chinese group it called Black Vine that had been conducting cyber-espionage targeting industries including aerospace, energy and health care.

Marriott

Beginning in 2014, hackers extracted data including credit card and passport numbers, birth dates, phone numbers and hotel arrival and departure dates on as many as 383 million guests of the hotel chain. The breach went undetected for four years and affected hotels in the Starwood chain that Marriott acquired in 2016.

Analysts noted that information from hotels – common venues of extramarital trysts and corporate espionage – could be used for blackmail and counterespionage. On Monday, Attorney General William Barr blamed the hack on Chinese agents.

Group say Census must dispel doubts on citizenship

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
Associated Press

A prominent Latino organization said Monday the U.S. Census Bureau needs to explicitly communicate there will be no citizenship question ahead of the 2020 count – or risk undercounting minority groups.

Arturo Vargas, CEO of the NALEO Education Fund, said the effort by the Trump administration to include the question sparked fear and mistrust among Latinos in the United States.

Vargas said the issue continues to pose a challenge for nonprofit organizations working to ensure an accurate census, but the Census Bureau did not incorporate any information on the citizenship question debacle as part of its publicity campaigns.

"The bureau cannot leave it upon us – the nonprofit sector – to clean up the mess created by the administration," Vargas said. "The Census Bureau needs to stand up at this point and head this challenge straight on."

The Census Bureau says its ads were based on research and recommendations on "positive messaging." One of the ads shows friends having dinner raising concerns of whether the responses will be shared with police or the "migra," as immigration authorities are known. One of the men in the commercial says he filled it out in ten years ago and was still around.

"The 2020 Census ads are focused on making sure people know that taking the Census is important, easy and safe," said the Census Bureau's spokesman Michael Cook, adding that they "address confidentiality concerns."

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Stand athwart the exclamation point

Kathleen Parker

Despite what some might think, journalism is full of rules.

We have rules for sourcing, attribution, recording conversations and even rules about buying our own lunch. In writing, most of us defer to the AP Stylebook, an alphabetical catalog of how-tos: when and how to use titles, state abbreviations, numbers vs. numerals, quotations and the like.

Punctuation rules are what they've always been, with slight variations from age to era. The exclamation point has fallen in and out of favor for good reason. Children are suckers for them: *"I do not like green eggs and ham!"* Journalists are taught to use them sparingly, if at all. This is because the exclamation point signifies shouting, which obviously can be overdone, and quickly loses its oomph. The exclamation point can also suggest a sort of debutante breathlessness.

Oh, Scarlett! I just love that drapery-dress you stitched together!! Why, how on earth did you ever conceive such a thing!!!???

The South is still largely populated with the overly excited. On any given day, upon running into a friend or acquaintance, it is highly probable that I'll hear something like: *"Heeeeyyyyy!!!! How ARE you???? Oh, my gosh, you look amaaaa-zing!!!!"* (Hugging is also very likely.) I don't mind this much, though if you're in a room full of such women, you'll need an exclamation deflector to soften the assault on your eardrums, not to mention your self-respect.

Writing is altogether different, of course, and no good writer, Southern or otherwise, would think of overusing exclamations. It just isn't done. To exclaim is to seem silly, shallow and self-absorbed, or, conversely, sarcastic, snarky or sneering. Usage is sometimes tricky, which is why: sparingly.

Something has shifted lately, however, and exclamation points suddenly are popping up everywhere! We may as well blame social media since most regrettable trends can be traced back to that which celebrates the silly, the shallow and the self-absorbed, not to mention sarcasm, snark and sneer. Did anyone in particular come thundering to mind?

Bingo! The exclaimer-in-chief's Twitter feed is rife with exclamatory pronouncements. "Witch hunt!" "Enemy of the People!" "No collusion!" Of course this president would love exclamatory punctuation, connoting as it does loudness, boldness or, say, a booming voice before a cheering crowd. WINNING! The exclamation point, twin of the UPPERCASE, befits the narcissist who cloaks himself in a veil of superlatives.

It's exhausting – and, apparently, infectious. Without pride, I confess that I too have begun exclaiming over absolutely nothing for pure effect, mostly to "sound" happy. Admit it: You have, too. And it does seem connected to social media and, perhaps especially, to texting.

As everyone eventually learns, a text can be easily misunderstood. Sometimes this may be a function of a rushed thought carelessly conveyed without attention to tone or mutual context. You know the drill: The recipient of your text completely misinterprets your intent, feelings are hurt, contracts are ripped apart, dates are broken, hearts are rent asunder.

I love texting for the same reasons you do. It's quick and easy. To pick up the phone and call another human being requires, comparatively, a vast array of resources: a smiling voice, niceties, feigned interest in chitchat, and the expenditure of finite reserves of psychic energy. Thus, rather than speak person-to-person, we've begun resorting to the exclamation point to serve as our happy face ambassador.

Hi! immediately connotes friendliness and a smile, whereas *Hi* – is a mere door-opener, as utilitarian and dour as the messenger who arrives to serve your divorce summons.

This faux friendliness surely portends an insidious trend of trading human communion for convenience and efficiency. Isn't this, after all, the purpose of all modern technology – and ain't it great? Between headphones and handheld computers capable of blocking even the periphery of others' lives, we spin our personal cocoons ever-more snugly. Heaven forbid we should make eye contact.

In such a world, insularity is our default mode and the exclamation point our fashionable foil. How long can we sustain this pas de deux of self-inflicted loneliness? Not forever, I suspect. The pendulum eventually reverses course and soon we'll be hankering for face-to-face time over Facetime, a conversation rather than a text, and mayhap a return to saner punctuation.

After all, to exclaim is human. But to end a sentence with a period is divine.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for The Washington Post.

Buttigieg wants to be the Goldilocks candidate

Doyle McManus

Not long ago, Pete Buttigieg was unknown outside of South Bend, the fourth-largest city in Indiana, a state so red it voted for Democratic presidents only twice since 1940.

But as he heads into the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday, the former mayor of South Bend is a surprisingly good bet to win the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

He's gotten this far mostly on raw political talent – without the years of experience, deep bases of support or fundraising networks some of his rivals enjoyed.

Yes, he's given eloquent speeches and assembled, at 38, a gold-plated resume (Harvard, Rhodes scholar, naval intelligence officer in Afghanistan, management consultant). But he's risen mostly because of canny political judgment that led him to seize what appears a sweet spot on the Democrats' political spectrum.

He's cast himself as the Goldilocks candidate: younger and more progressive than Joe Biden or Amy Klobuchar, but more moderate and less combative than Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren.

"You don't have to choose between the status quo … and the revolution," he said recently.

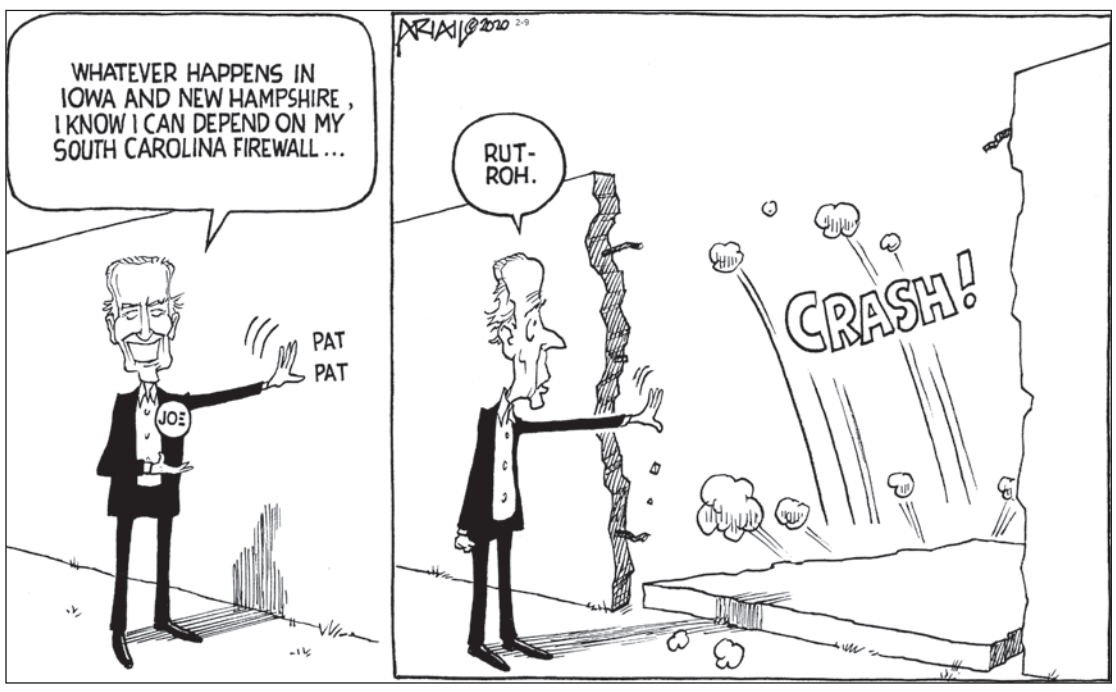
Much of his stump speech is a call for "generational change," an attempt to turn his youth and earnest Eagle Scout demeanor into an advantage.

First-time listeners often come away impressed – although if you've heard him more than once, the pitch can also sound bland and generic.

But Buttigieg's policies are more interesting than he makes them sound. Most fall midway between Biden's nostalgic liberalism and Sanders' calls for a "political revolution."

His most distinctive position is on healthcare, where he rejects Sanders' "Medicare for all" proposal, which would eliminate private medical insurance for a government-run system, a step many voters aren't ready to embrace.

Buttigieg's alternative, which he calls "Medicare for all who want it," would still mandate universal health coverage but allow people to choose either government-run insurance or a private plan.



Polls show most Democrats like both ideas. But the Buttigieg version is far more popular among the independents and Republicans who will vote in a general election.

His clarity on healthcare is probably the main reason he has risen so fast, especially compared with Warren, who stumbled on the issue when she initially backed the Sanders proposal and then appeared to back away, angering both sides.

In a similar Goldilocks vein, Buttigieg would raise taxes on the wealthy – not as much as Sanders or Warren, but more than Biden. Unlike Sanders, he doesn't slam billionaires for their wealth; he raises money from them at high-dollar fundraisers and doesn't apologize for it, saying Democrats need all the help they can get to beat President Trump.

A study by Americans for Tax Fairness, a liberal group, found that Sanders' proposals (including Medicare for all) would raise federal spending by about $50 trillion over 10 years. Buttigieg's would raise spending by about $8 trillion, and Biden's would raise spending by about $3 trillion.

Buttigieg says he would mandate free tuition at public colleges for most students, but not for children of wealthy parents. Sanders and Warren would make college tuition-free for all.

Buttigieg's rivals complain – accurately – that his views have shifted. In 2018, as he was preparing to run, he said he favored "Medicare for all." In early 2019, amid a wave of progressive sentiment, he joined in calls to decriminalize illegal border crossings. He walked back from both positions as his campaign moved toward the center.

His critics say he trimmed his sails in search of votes – and campaign contributions, which he denies. Warren has accused him of running a "consultant-driven campaign with some vague ideas that are designed not to offend anyone."

Vague or not, Buttigieg appears to have gained a solid foothold in the moderate majority of the Democratic electorate. He's likely to benefit if Biden continues to flail, as he did in Friday's debate in Manchester.

Buttigieg effectively tied with Sanders in the chaotic Iowa caucuses last week. But he ran well ahead among voters who call themselves "somewhat liberal," the party's largest ideological category.

For all that, he has vulnerabilities, and they will be tested in the months ahead.

He is the first openly gay candidate to run for president, and no one knows if that will prove a liability.

He has been notably weak in polls of African American voters, who are a crucial Democratic base in South Carolina and other Southern states. In Friday night's debate in New Hampshire, he didn't offer a convincing explanation for statistics showing disproportionate arrests of black men in South Bend during the eight years he was mayor.

His claim to electability won't be convincing unless he begins winning by bigger margins than his hair's-breadth finish in Iowa.

And while he often points out that he has more military and governing experience than Trump did in 2016, if Buttigieg gets the nomination, the president will have a field day mocking the former small-city mayor.

The immediate question is whether either Buttigieg or Sanders, the top two finishers in Iowa, can expand his appeal and take the lead. Can Buttigieg acquire moderate voters who have backed Biden until now? Can Sanders win support from Democrats fearful of his call for a political revolution?

And can either of them beat Michael R. Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York, who has spent more than $200 million of his own money, and vows to spend much more, in states that will vote on Super Tuesday, March 3, including California?

If Buttigieg, Sanders and Bloomberg lead the field a month from now, Democrats will definitely have a clear choice. And the Goldilocks candidate might just win.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

ANOTHER OPINION

Could Oscar winner have meant what we think she meant?

What on earth was director Julia Reichert thinking at Sunday night's Oscars?

"American Factory" is a very good documentary, backed by Barack and Michelle Obama, about the growing and shrinking pains that result when a Chinese company takes over a former General Motors manufacturing plant in Ohio. Its lesson, to the extent there is a clear one, is that in a tough global economy, employees must find new ways to bridge cultural divides, save their unions and protect their jobs.

When Reichert and her team took the stage to accept the statuette for best documentary, she said a few smart-enough things about it being tough out there for workers in a world of multinational corporations and rising automation.

She then ended her remarks with this sentence: "Workers of the world, unite!"

Remedial education alert: This is, word for word, the call to action made famous by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in their Communist Manifesto. Anyone who says it uncritically is either utterly ignorant of its unmistakable context or actually urging the overthrow of free markets and capitalist economies across the planet via a worldwide revolution of workers against those who control the means of production.

For an Academy Award-winning director to cap her acceptance speech with those words, at a moment when Republicans breathlessly and in most cases baselessly warn of socialists taking over the Democratic Party, is a caricature straight out of right-wing dreams.

Reichert is a believer in unions, as are we. She clearly believes that, at the plant in question, workers have lost valuable leverage because management is hostile to unionization. She's right to be upset about that.

But she cannot possibly be leaping from that to a call for global Marxist revolution. Can she?

– New York Daily News

2 battles that will define New Hampshire

E.J. Dionne

It tells you a lot about the state of the Democratic race for president and the lines of division within the party that there are two battles being waged as the campaign for today's New Hampshire primary comes to a close.

One is the urgent effort by the party's moderate and center-left voters to find a candidate who can defeat Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. The other is a desperate fight for their allegiance among the candidates vying to become that person. Thus the struggle in the final hours among former South Bend mayor Pete Buttigieg, former vice president Joe Biden and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.). The question is whether they do so much damage to one another that they clear Sanders's path to victory.

The wild card is Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.). She rose briefly last fall to a commanding position as the center of gravity in the party between Sanders' proposed revolution and the party's incrementalists. But she fell back after she became embroiled in controversy over her evolving position on Medicare-for-all, one of Sanders' signature issues.

She has made a bit of a comeback by arguing that she is the most plausible unity candidate, but the central drama now is whether Biden and Klobuchar can stop the surge toward Buttigieg. His strong showing in the Iowa caucuses had begun to turn the New Hampshire race into a straight fight between the 38-year-old wunderkind and the 78-year-old democratic socialist.

Biden, fighting for his political life after a fourth-place showing in Iowa, spent the weekend aggressively taking Buttigieg on, arguing that "we're a party at risk if we nominate someone who's never held a higher office than mayor of South Bend, Indiana."

Klobuchar hopes that a commanding debate performance will transform her from an also-ran into a major contender. Trying to seize what may be her last opening, she's arguing that she can give voters who have rallied to Buttigieg both the moderation they crave and the experience he lacks.

Buttigieg thus found himself in a two-front war this weekend. He hit Sanders for offering a choice between "revolution" or "the status quo," which, he said, would leave "a lot of people with nowhere to go."

And he issued an implicit critique of the Washington veterans at his heels, saying voters from "small- and medium-sized cities like mine" – there are many small communities in New Hampshire – "feel like Washington can't even hear us."

The dynamics of the contest were captured well by a tracking poll conducted by the Boston Globe, WBZ-TV in Boston and Suffolk University, which offered clues about the race before and after the debate. It found Klobuchar was the only candidate in the top five who gained ground between the group's Friday and Saturday surveys, rising from 6 percent to 9 percent. Biden was down a point to 10 percent, and Warren also lost a point, dropping to 13 percent.

The most revealing, although modest shift, was in the Buttigieg-Sanders standings. Pre-debate, Buttigieg led Sanders 25 percent to 24 percent; by Saturday, Sanders was ahead 24 percent to 22 percent. (Another 7 percent was shared by the rest of the field, with 12 percent undecided.)

All this is margin of error stuff, but the closeness and fluidity that the poll reflected is the point. Among them, the three middle-of-the-road candidates – Buttigieg, Biden and Klobuchar – had 41 percent in the survey. This suggests that in a close race, a dynamic toward fracture rather than consolidation will benefit Sanders. His hold on about a quarter of the state's electorate seems unshakable.

The paradox of the Democratic struggle this year that the splintering within the party's coalition stands in stark contradiction to the overwhelming sentiment across its rank-and-file for unity against President Trump. Sanders himself underscored the point in Friday's debate. "No matter who wins this damn thing," he said, "we're all going to stand together."

That may yet prove true. But the story of "this damn thing" up to now is that the faltering Biden campaign has left believers in his Beating-Trump-Is-Everything approach to 2020 split asunder. Biden's core promise was that he would be the unity candidate who could best draw all the pieces of the Democratic coalition together. Democrats outside the ranks of Sanders's loyalists are torn because they can't figure out how to answer the question: If Joe can't do it, who can?

E.J. Dionne is a columnist for The Washington Post.

OBITUARIES

Peggy Ann Block

Nov. 15, 1946 – Feb. 8, 2020

Peggy Ann Block, 73, of St. Joseph passed away on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, in Watervliet.

A Celebration of Life Service will take place at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 613 Court St., St. Joseph, with Pastor Michael Roth officiating. Burial will follow in Riverview Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph. Memorial contributions may be made to Peggy's grandchildren's college fund, payable to Kevin Block. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Peggy was born on Nov. 15, 1946, to Edward and Betty (Franckowiak) Merkey in Manistee, Mich. She graduated from Manistee High School in 1964, and continued her education by attending Davenport Business School and earning a degree in business. On Aug. 31, 1968, Peggy married the love of her life, Kevin Block. Peggy worked for the City of St. Joseph for 24 years. She held the position of city clerk for her final 15 years, until her retirement. Peggy was very active in the city, especially during election times.

She enjoyed watching home renovation shows where she could take those ideas and incorporate them into her home. She loved making jewelry, watching golf and tennis, visiting local garage sales, and most of all, playing penny slots at the casino. Peggy's favorite holiday was Christmas; she loved it so much she would start buying decorations during summer so she was prepared as soon as the Christmas season came around. She was also a proud member of Trinity Lutheran Church. However, what Peggy loved most was her grandchildren; spending time with and spoiling them gave her the most joy.

Peggy is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Kevin; children, Kevin (Julie) Block of St. Joseph and Brian (Kyla) Block of Fenton, Mich; grandchildren, Jordan, Jenna and Leah Block; sister, Patricia Merkey; and several cousins.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Betty.

John Huddleston Sr.

Feb. 26, 1940 – Feb. 5, 2020

John E. "Papa John" Huddleston Sr., 79, of Benton Harbor passed away Feb. 5, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

A service celebrating his life will be held Thursday, Feb. 13, at Beautiful Gate Baptist Church, Benton Harbor. The visitation begins at 11 a.m., followed by the funeral at noon. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.robbinsbrothersfh.com.

John was born Feb. 26, 1940, in Buena Vista, Miss., to the union of Tome and Ivera Huddleston. He had a passion for fishing and watching sports. John worked for Southern Beverage for 25 years and retired.

John is survived by his wife, Ann Huddleston; daughters, Keshar Huddleston, Tabatha Listenbee and Schacetta Listenbee.; sons, John (Tracy) Huddleston Jr. and Jonathan (Iveth) Huddleston; sisters, Mary Helen McAllister and Rosemary (Jessie) Whitelow; granddaughters, Tyeshia (Jermaine) Brown and Tamara Huddleston; grandsons, Derrick Grady, John Huddleston III, Preston (Jessanna) Huddleston, Marcus Huddleston and Tavarious Holmes; godsons, Pastor Jeffery DeLoney and Allen Stephenson; special friends, Edwin and Violet Fetke; pets, Honey and Marcus; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, family and friends.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Tome and Ivera Huddleston; sons, Terrence Tyrone "Big Ti" Huddleston and Kerry Lynn Huddleston; brothers, Lora, Willie T., Prince and James "Doc" Huddleston; and nephew, Marcus Huddleston.

Nancy Gerold-Hall

July 24, 1949 – Feb. 9, 2020

Nancy Louise Gerold-Hall, 70, of Buchanan passed away on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

She was born July 24, 1949, in Buchanan, to the late Louis and Violet Gerold. Nancy married Kenneth Hall on Sept. 12, 1992, in Niles.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Kenneth; daughters, Sheila (Marty) Sprague-Sheline and Lisa (Andrew Williams) Sprague-Sosnoski; brother, Dave (Myrna) Gerold; and six grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Violet; and brother, Glen Gerold.

Visitation for Nancy will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, with the funeral service at 2 pm. Burial will follow in Galien Cemetery. A celebration of Nancy's life will immediately follow and be open from 3-6 p.m. at Community of Christ, 110 S. Cleveland Ave., Galien, MI 49113. Online condolences may be made at www.hovenfunerals.com.

Elizabeth Nordhoff

Nov. 12, 1940 – Feb. 8, 2020

Elizabeth Nordhoff from Watervliet passed away early Saturday morning, Feb. 8, 2020, after a brief illness.

The wife of Laurence B. Nordhoff and devoted mother, she was also a respected member of the local Watervliet business community as proprietor of Trade Winds Antiques and Beads from 1988-2013. She was known for her bright smile, compassion and an ability to find something good in everyone.

She is survived by her husband of more than 60 years, Laurence B. Nordhoff of Watervliet; her children: James Alan Nordhoff of Gobles, Kimberly (Michael) Ballard of Coloma, David Laurence Nordhoff of Corpus Christy, Texas, and Christopher Lee Nordhoff of Lake Forest, Ill.; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and nephew, Curtis Brink of Orlando, Fla.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Willis R. (Clara) Brink and Bernice Cothrell; her sister, Florence Brink Sherrod; and her infant son, Mark Jonathan Nordhoff (1970-1971).

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at New Apostolic Church, 7521 Paw Paw Ave., Watervliet.

Arrangements are by Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Coloma, 468-6000. Those wishing to leave an online message of remembrance may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Death notices

Douglas M. Atkinson, 63, of St. Joseph Township died Feb. 6, 2020, at home. Fairplain Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, Benton Harbor, 926-7222.

Joseph Barnes, 74, of Niles died Feb. 8, 2020. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Irene M. Deihl, 78, of Dowagiac died Feb. 10, 2020, at home. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Eileen Mary Denardi, 73, of Forked River, N.J., died Feb. 8, 2020, at her son's home in Niles. Halbritter Wickens Funeral Home, Niles, 683-3000.

Conrad Gaedtke, 63, of Niles died Feb. 9, 2020, at home. Halbritter Wickens Funeral Home, Niles, 683-3000.

Nancy Louise Gerold-Hall, 70, of Buchanan died Feb. 9, 2020 at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, 695-2363.

Eleanor Marquardt, 101, of Sodus died Feb. 10, 2020, at home. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Betty Lou Mashke, 91, of St. Joseph died Feb. 10, 2020, at The Whitcomb Senior Living Community, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Jean Marie McDonald, 56, of Benton Harbor died Feb. 10, 2020, at home. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Mary Young McKee, 87, of Niles died Feb. 10, 2020, at Bay Bluffs in Harbor Springs, Mich. Halbritter Wickens Funeral Home, Niles, 683-3000.

Elizabeth (Brink) Nordhoff, 79, of Watervliet died Feb. 8, 2020. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Richard Louis VanDyke Sr., 96, of Benton Harbor died Feb. 9, 2020, at The Willows Assisted Living, St. Joseph. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Douglas M. Atkinson

July 11, 1956 – Feb. 6, 2020

Douglas M. Atkinson, 63, of St. Joseph Township died Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, at his home.

Family services will be held at later date and cremation has taken place. Arrangements are by the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Township. Please share messages, memories or photos at www.florin.net.

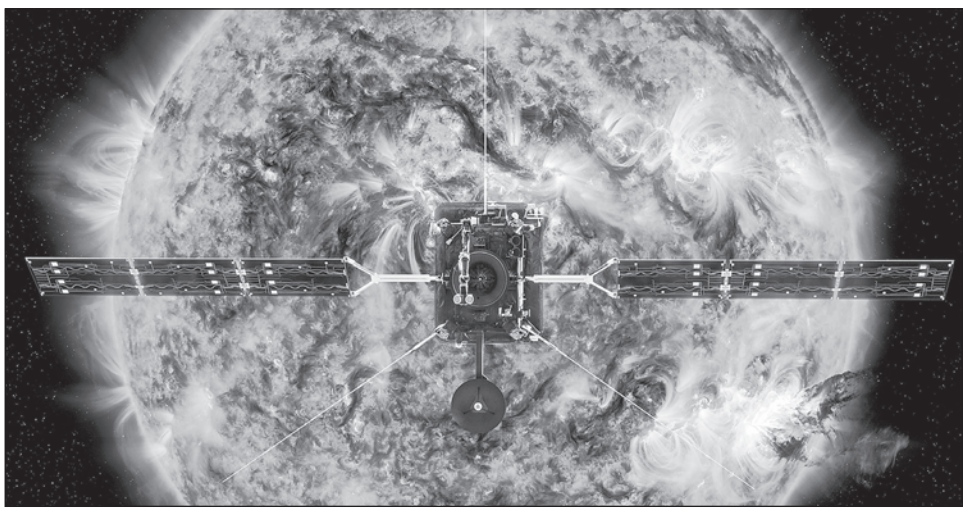
Doug was born on July 11, 1956, in Benton Harbor, to Donald and Lewetta Atkinson. He was a member of the Benton Harbor Moose Lodge and enjoyed bowling. He had worked at many different jobs. He also had a keen interest and skill in playing pool and went to the Pool Nationals. Doug was an easygoing and determined individual who would help anyone.

His family includes his brother, Terry Atkinson of St. Joseph Township; his sisters, Donna Burgess of Tampa, Fla., and Merri "Chris" (Gary) Tozian of Tampa; his several nieces and nephews; his several great-nieces and nephews; and his brother-in-law, Tom Paukowitz of St. Joseph.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Valerie Paukowitz in 2005; and his family members, Ray and Barbara Burns.

Solar Orbiter blasts off to capture 1st look at sun's poles

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer



ESA / ATG medialab, NASA / SDO / P. Testa via AP

This illustration made available by NASA depicts the Solar Orbiter satellite in front of the Sun. On Sunday, NASA and the European Space Agency have planned to launch the spacecraft on a mission to the sun to get close-up views of its polar regions.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Europe and NASA's Solar Orbiter rocketed into space Sunday night on an unprecedented mission to capture the first pictures of the sun's elusive poles.

"We're on the way to the sun. Go Solar Orbiter!" said Cesar Garcia Marirrodriga, project manager for the European Space Agency. "It's a fantastic moment ... it's like, well, we're unstoppable."

The $1.5 billion spacecraft will join NASA's Parker Solar Probe, launched 1 1/2 years ago, in coming perilously close to the sun to unveil its secrets.

While Solar Orbiter won't venture close enough to penetrate the sun's corona, or crown-like outer atmosphere, like Parker, it will maneuver into a unique out-of-plane orbit that will take it over both poles, never photographed before. Together with powerful ground observatories, the sun-staring space duo will be like an orchestra, according to Gunther Hasinger, the European Space Agency's science director.

"Every instrument plays a different tune, but together they play the symphony of the sun," Hasinger said.

Solar Orbiter was made in Europe, along with nine science instruments. NASA provided the 10th instrument and arranged the late-night launch from Cape Canaveral.

Nearly 1,000 scientists and engineers from across Europe gathered with their U.S. colleagues under a full moon as United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket blasted off, illuminating the sky for miles around. Crowds also jammed nearby roads and beaches.

The rocket was visible for four full minutes after liftoff, a brilliant star piercing the night sky. Europe's project scientist Daniel Mueller was thrilled, calling it "picture perfect." His NASA counterpart, scientist Holly Gilbert, exclaimed, "One word: Wow."

NASA declared success 1 1/2 hours later, once the Solar Orbiter's solar wings were unfurled.

Solar Orbiter – a boxy 4,000-pound spacecraft with spindly instrument booms and antennas – will swing past Venus in December and again next year, and then past Earth, using the planets' gravity to alter its path. Full science operations will begin in late 2021, with the first close solar encounter in 2022 and more every six months.

At its closest approach, Solar Orbiter will come within 26 million miles of the sun, well within the orbit of Mercury.

Parker Solar Probe, by contrast, has already passed within 11.6 million miles of the sun, an all-time record, and is shooting for a slim gap of 4 million miles by 2025. But it's flying nowhere near the poles. That's where Solar Orbiter will shine.

The sun's poles are pockmarked with dark, constantly shifting coronal holes. They're hubs for the sun's magnetic field, flipping polarity every 11 years.

Solar Orbiter's head-on views should finally yield a full 3-D view of the sun, 93 million miles from our home planet.

"With Solar Observatory looking right down at the poles, we'll be able to see these huge coronal hole structures," said Nicola Fox, director of NASA's heliophysics division. "That's where all the fast solar wind comes from ... It really is a completely different view."

To protect the sensitive instruments from the sun's blistering heat, engineers devised a heat shield with an outer black coating made of burned bone charcoal similar to what was used in prehistoric cave paintings. The 10-foot-by-8-foot heat shield is just 15 inches thick, and made of titanium foil with gaps in between to shed heat. It can withstand temperatures up to nearly 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Embedded in the heat shield are five peepholes of varying sizes that will stay open just long enough for the science instruments to take measurements in X-ray, ultraviolet, visible and other wavelengths.

The observations will shed light on other stars, providing clues as to the potential habitability of worlds in other solar systems.

Closer to home, the findings will help scientists better predict space weather, which can disrupt communications.

"We need to know how the sun affects the local environment here on Earth, and also Mars and the moon when we move there," said Ian Walters, project manager for Airbus Defence and Space, which designed and built the spacecraft. "We've been lucky so far the last 150 years," since a colossal solar storm last hit. "We need to predict that. We just can't wait for it to happen."

Altogether, more than a dozen spacecraft have focused on the sun over the past 30 years. It took until now, however, for technology to allow elaborate spacecraft like Parker and Solar Orbiter to get close without being fried.

Fox considers it "a golden age" for solar physics.

Prosecutors: Thief dropped journal with list of homes to hit

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Authorities in Tennessee say they busted a well-organized burglar after he allegedly dropped a notebook during a break-in that contained a list of other places he planned to target.

Robert Shull Goddard, 49, is accused of smashing a glass door and breaking into a Nashville area home on Jan. 29, stealing a TV and a gun from the residents, according to records filed in Davidson County court.

But prosecutors said Goddard left something behind that allowed authorities to solve the case – a notebook that listed multiple addresses, including one for another home a few miles away that had been burglarized that same day, The Tennessean reported. Investigators were able to identify the suspect, in part, through notes his daughter left in the journal, along with her address.

Goddard was caught on video kicking in the back door of another house the next day, court records state.

He was arrested last week and was being held on a $15,000 bond for felony burglary and theft charges, jail records showed. It's unclear whether he has an attorney who can comment on his behalf.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

Steve Smith, a senior at Notre Dame and a Coloma native, is one of 15 contestants picked for Jeopardy's college tournament, which airs May 1-12. "It's the accomplishment of a lifelong goal," said Smith, who is majoring in U.S. government.

Competitors will wear sweatshirts with their university logos. "I'm going to find the one with the biggest representation of Notre Dame that I can," Smith said.

35 years ago – 1985

New plans for a $16 million condominium-marina development were received enthusiastically by the St. Joseph City Commission tonight when presented by James Horan.

The plans call for three condominium buildings of six floors each and one building of five floors – 68 condo units and 68 boat slips. The privately-funded complex, to be built on seven acres of land owned by Horan Red-Mix and along 960 feet of river frontage, will be named The Waterfront.

50 years ago – 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William Mashke are the new co-owners of the Hall of Cards & Books at Fairplain Plaza, taking over from Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schalegel who have retired and now live in Florida.

The word "books" has been added to the name, and the store now carries a line of best-sellers. The Mashke's plan to expand the business in the future to include a complete book store and reading center.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 2020. There are 324 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Feb. 11, 1979, followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seized power in Iran.

On this date:

In 1531, the Church of England grudgingly accepted King Henry VIII as its supreme head.

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln bade farewell to his adopted hometown of Springfield, Ill., as he headed to Washington for his inauguration.

In 1937, a six-week-old sit-down strike against General Motors ended, with the company agreeing to recognize the United Automobile Workers Union.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin signed the Yalta Agreement, in which Stalin agreed to declare war against Imperial Japan following Nazi Germany's capitulation.

In 1968, New York City's fourth and current Madison Square Garden, located on Manhattan's West Side at the site of what used to be the Pennsylvania Station building, opened with a "Salute to the USO" hosted by Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. (The same evening, the New York Rangers played their final game at the third Garden, tying the Detroit Red Wings 3-3.)

In 1975, Margaret Thatcher was elected leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow	Scattered Snow	Isolated Snow	Mostly Cloudy
31°	25°	36° / 27°	29° / 14°	18° / 8°	34° / 26°

Local Outlook

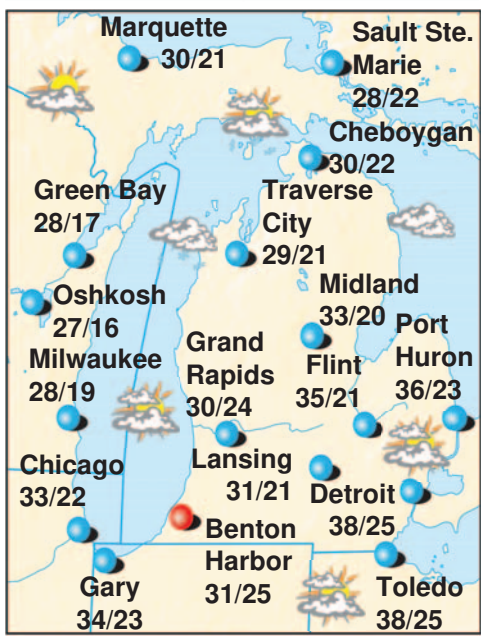
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 31°, humidity of 79%. West wind 9 to 16 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 25°. West southwest wind 6 to 15 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 17°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	7:47 a.m.
Sunset	6:12 p.m.
Moonrise	9:19 p.m.
Moonset	9:32 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
2/15	2/23	3/2	3/9

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	34°
Low	26°
Normal High	34°
Normal Low	19°
Record High	61° in 2009
Record Low	-13° in 2011

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	0.21"
Normal for month	0.47"
Year to date	4.07"
Normal Year to date	2.22"

Air Quality

Yesterday	51
Main Offender	Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Sensitive
151-200	Unhealthy

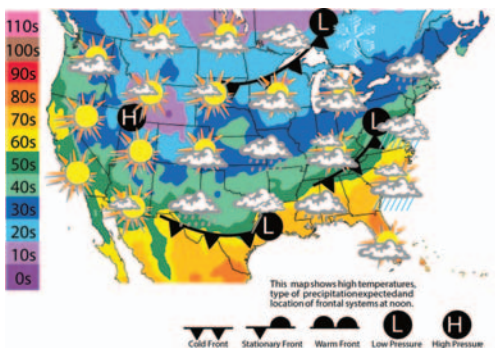
Weather Trivia

Is there weather on any of the other planets in our solar system?

Answer: Yes, giant storms on Jupiter are the most famous.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Feb. 11, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, W wind 12 to 16 kt, with gusts as high as 22 kt. Partly sunny. Waves 2 to 4 ft. Water temperature 36 degrees. Tonight, W wind 10 to 14 kt. Winds could gust as high as 20 kt.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy to cloudy with scattered snow showers, highs in the 20s and 30s. West wind 8 to 15 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with isolated snow, highs in the 30s. Southwest wind 10 to 16 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s. West wind 9 to 16 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with isolated rain and snow, highs in the 30s. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

VIRUS

From page A1

with individual or small clusters of cases. Blocked travel, strict surveillance, aggressive quarantines and global coordination have protected us.

So far, 27 nations have caught the explosive virus before it ignited into a larger outbreak. Of these, 13 detected it in an individual traveler to China. Another 14 nations stopped it right after it made a dangerous jump – from a Chinese traveler to others.

Yet if just one country lets the tiny microbe gain a foothold in the general community, and lacks the resources to stop its spread, the rest of us will continue to be at risk, say experts. Global health security is only as strong as the world's weakest link.

Under the most optimistic scenario, the virus is controlled and then eradicated in China.

There's precedent for that. In 2003, a cousin virus called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, emerged in China without warning, killing nearly 800 people.

"Since then, it has disappeared," said Jan Carette, associate professor of microbiology and immunology at Stanford University.

If control measures are eventually effective in China, and transmission slows so that each infected person infects no more than one other person, the current outbreak could simply dwindle, then vanish, said Carette.

But that depends on several factors, still unknown. How easily does the virus spread? How sick does it make people? Can infected people with no symptoms infect others?

There is troubling new evidence that some infected people don't feel sick, so they may unwittingly infect others, said the CDC's Redfield. There also are hints that the virus can be transmitted before symptoms start, he said. So this virus may not behave like SARS. People with SARS got so sick that they immediately went to bed or sought care, limiting its spread.

This outbreak has strained China's health care system, which is stretched even in normal times.

"In China, it's beyond containment," the CDC's Redfield said on Friday. "We're trying to prevent a second China now."

Fighting the disease at its source could reduce the risk of spread, according to World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. That approach worked with Ebola, where deaths were geographically confined.

"Focus on the epicenter," Tedros said at a recent news conference. "If you have several epicenters, it is chaos."

The second possible scenario is far less optimistic: The virus remains uncontrolled in China and becomes rooted elsewhere, where it persists, seeding the rest of the globe.

Epidemiologists call this an "endemic" virus, circulating continuously with seasonal fluctuations.

Chickenpox and influenza are endemic in many countries. So are four other coronaviruses – 229E, OC43, KHU1 and NL63 – which are responsible for an estimated one-quarter of all colds and can cause more severe disease, such as pneumonia, in children and the elderly.

So far, strict vigilance has kept Americans safe. Only 12 cases have been reported, as of Sunday, and the virus has not spread into the broader community.

But isolation, quarantines and travel bans aren't sustainable, said biology professor Frederick Cohan of Wesleyan University, who studies the evolution of microbes.

"I don't know of any realistic scenario where you could have a virus that is raging in one major geographic area and not present in other ones. That's not what will happen," he said. "We're not able to clamp down on every visitor for an extended period of time.

"Either it will spread worldwide or it will disappear," he said.

Based on what he has seen so far, Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, thinks it's probably too late to contain the virus.

"As we see more and more cases – and the severity falls, as we diagnose better – it is time to start thinking about not how to contain it but to cope with it, and repurpose our health care facilities," said Adalja.

How much death and disease would it cause? No one knows. There's the chance it could mutate so that it is more benign, with symptoms such as the common cold or a mild flu. Then its presence would be less worrisome. It might also have seasonal shifts, worsening in winter when people are clustered together.

Ginsburg: Equal Rights Amendment backers should start over

By JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

Patrick Semansky / AP

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaks during a discussion on the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington on Monday.

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said Monday that those like her who support an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution should start over in trying to get it passed rather than counting on breathing life into the failed attempt from the 1970s.

"I would like to see a new beginning," Ginsburg said during an event at Georgetown's law school in Washington. "I'd like it to start over."

Congress sent the amendment, which guarantees men and women equal rights under the law, to the states in 1972. It gave states seven years to ratify it, later extending the deadline to 1982. But the amendment wasn't ratified by the required three-quarters of states before the deadline.

Last month, however, Virginia lawmakers voted to ratify the amendment, becoming the 38th and final state needed. The Justice Department has said it's too late, and a lawsuit is now ongoing.

In addition to Virginia, Nevada and Illinois also voted to ratify the amendment after the deadline, in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Five states have moved to rescind their earlier approvals.

"There's too much controversy about late comers," Ginsburg said. "Plus, a number of states have withdrawn their ratification. So if you count a latecomer on the plus side, how can you disregard states that said we've changed our minds?"

Ginsburg has previously expressed the view that the amendment "fell three states short of ratification."

Ginsburg has been a champion of the Equal Rights Amendment for decades. And her standard response to the question of how she would improve the Constitution is to point to the ERA.

Ginsburg said Monday she is often asked, "Haven't you, through the vehicle of the 14th amendment's equal protection clause" gotten to "the same place where you would be with the ERA?" She said her answer is "not quite."

Ginsburg noted that every Constitution in the world written since 1950 has the equivalent of an Equal Rights Amendment.

"I would like to show my granddaughters that the equal citizenship stature of men and women is a fundamental human right," Ginsburg said, echoing comments she has made previously.

She added: "The union will be more perfect when that simple statement – that men and women are persons of equal citizenship stature – is part of our fundamental instrument of government. So even if the argument is it's largely symbolic, it is a very important symbol."

LAKESHORE

From page A1

through the general fund. And still others have been paid for by generous donors. The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is funding $660,000 in upgrades to the sound and lighting systems in the Community Auditorium at Lakeshore High School, which are due to be done later this year.

But Freeman said most of the projects still need to be done, including many that would make the schools safer.

"We still want to complete emergency and exit lighting in many of the areas," he said.

Freeman said the new facilities study will prioritize what needs to be done in the district. He said many people keep requesting that air conditioning be added to the gyms at the three elementary schools. In fact, he said that right now, the gyms at those schools also serve as the cafeteria. He said building a separate gym would mean that the spaces can be better used.

In addition, he said the playgrounds at the elementary schools need to be upgraded to be handicap-accessible.

"We're trying to raise some money for that at Stewart Elementary School, where we have several students right now in wheel chairs," he said.

He added that Lakeshore Middle School still needs new lockers.

"That's a huge cost that can't be paid for out of the sinking fund," he said. "... One of the big things in here are (improvements to) our parking lots. That's something that's just a big chunk of money for us."

Freeman said facilities studies should be done at least every 10 years so school districts can prepare for anticipated increases or drops in enrollment.

He said the district's enrollment is projected to stay stable for the next five to six years, so there is little need to talk about adding more classroom space.

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BRIDGE

From page A1

and the staff recommends including that option. Staff recommended budgeting $165,000 for the project to allow for the possible replacement of deck boards, balusters or sections of steel beams. The city commission approved the contract for the repair and agreed to budget $165,000 from the city's Capital Improvement Fund.

The recent bridge inspection was performed by Wightman and Associates. That company also prepared the specifications for the restoration and repairs.

Shore protection

In another matter, City Manager John Hodgson said the city has received a petition requesting a special assessment to install shore protection along Lake Michigan west of the properties at 212 First St., 906 Lions Park Drive and 910 Lions Park Drive, and for the road end at First Street, The petition is signed by the owners of two of the three private properties.

Hodgson said that while he believed the petition should be presented to the city commission Monday, key staff members were not available last week to prepare the item for formal consideration, which will take place at the next meeting, on Feb. 24. The multi-step process would first require a resolution establishing a special assessment district and directing staff to prepare plans and estimates for a public hearing. If the project were to be confirmed after a public hearing, a special assessment role would be prepared, followed by a final public hearing.

Hodgson said the last time the city received a petition requesting a special assessment was in 2002, for the installation of ornamental street lights on a portion of Mount Curve Avenue.

"It's a unique process, and we need to make sure we're doing it correctly," he said.

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hp SPORTS

Pistons have rough offensive outing vs. Hornets

Page B2

Wrestling districts begin this week

Lakeshore among local favorites to make tournament run

By AL AREND
HP Sports Correspondent

Prep wrestling's "February Frenzy" begins in earnest this week with Michigan High School Athletic Association's district team and individual tournaments.

The team districts will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. Then on Saturday, the individual tournament begins. The top four placers in each weight class in each division advance on to regional competition the following Saturday.

The team state finals will be held Feb. 28-29 at the Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo. The individual state finals will be held Mar. 6-7 at Ford Field in Detroit.

"It's always a hectic but exciting four weeks of action," said veteran Lakeshore coach Bruce Bittenbender, now in his 50th year at the Lancers helm. "It's win or go home time."

His Lakeshore squad was rated No. 7 in D2 in last week's poll, and along with Niles (No. 10 in D2) are the only area squads ranked. They are in different districts, but could collide in the team regionals.

Returning area state qualifiers

(This year's projected weight)

Division 2

LAKESHORE – Cameron Litaker (112), Kyle Stampfly (119), Jonathon Gelesko (125), Micah Hanau (130-135), Shane Williams (135-140), Zeke Rohl (215).

NILES – Jordan Zimmerman (112), Javond Ball (135), Kade Wagley (140-145).

EDWARDSBURG – Jackson Hoover (140).

Division 3

BRANDYWINE (D4 last year) – Hunter Heath (140-145).

COLOMA – Caeleb Ishmael (112), Cole Alsup (285).

DOWAGIAC – Wyatt Bailey (285).

SOUTH HAVEN – Ray Woodell (130), Trevor Winkel (145-152), Jackson Calvert (189).

WATERVLIET (D4 last year) – Trevor Pelton (119.

Division 4

DECATUR – Romeo Lopez (130-135), Jared Checkley (171).

GOBLES – Hunter Underwood (152-160).

LAWTON – Landyn VanWyk (135-140).

Lakeshore (16-1), the Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference champ, is a heavy favorite to defeat St. Joseph (16-12) in the two-team district in the Bear Den on Thursday at 6 p.m. Niles has a much tougher road in its own district, which also features Coldwater, Sturgis and Edwardsburg, the Wolverine Conference champion.

"We're not looking past anyone, and if we're fortunate enough to beat Edwardsburg (in the district final) we'll see what happens in the regional," stated Niles coach Todd Hesson last week after his squad lost 49-15 to Lakeshore for the SMAC West Division dual meet crown, in a meet where he chose not to wrestle his four top grapplers. "Lakeshore is very good."

Niles is the defending regional champion.

In other area team districts, the D2 at South Haven is a virtual toss-up, with the host Rams, Coloma and

See **WRESTLING**, page B3

ANALYSIS

Sinking feeling for MSU?

Al Goldis / AP

Former Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio, right, and interim head coach Mike Tressel, left, walk off the field following a game against Indiana last season.

Spartan football is in danger of re-entering the dark ages after Dantonio surprise exit, coaching search blunders

By CHRIS SOLARI
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

EAST LANSING — Back to square one?

Or is it back to the dark era?

It's hard to say. But one thing about Michigan State football's coaching search situation is clear.

The worst possible scenario just happened at the worst possible time. And not just because Luke Fickell turned down the Spartans.

Paul Sancya

In this May 28, 2019 photo, Michigan State University athletic director Bill Beekma, listens at a Board of Trustees meeting.

Regardless how things get spun from here, with top-candidate Fickell deciding to remain at Cincinnati on Monday, the past week has at minimum tarnished the reputation of a program that was near the top of college football just five years ago. The Spartans are sputtering in terms of public perception, both from a fan base already frustrated with the downturn on the field and for potential candidates who may balk at the job because of the continued optics of ineptness at the university.

Fickell, himself, balked in part because of the campus culture at MSU. Or at least his family did, according to sources with knowledge of the situation. On Monday, he said his decision to stay at MSU was a "family decision."

The news came six days after Mark Dantonio announced his retirement Tuesday, less than 24 hours before signing day. In February. After more than a month of silence. Weeks after programs around the country filled their vacancies.

One rumored name after another – Pat Narduzzi, Mel Tucker, Robert Saleh – pulled their name from consideration over the past week. All keenly aware that MSU's search spotlighted Fickell as the primary choice to replace Dantonio, with rampant speculation the pursuit came with the Spartans' all-time winningest coach's blessing.

A novice athletic director, Bill Beekman, entered his first major coaching search with only the experience from hiring a rowing coach. A new boss in charge of a multi-million dollar department, who has no experience in athletic administration, got his fan base excited with precise criteria for the next coach, the prospects of having a plan in place and executing it swiftly and succinctly.

Fickell fit the bill.

He is an Ohio guy who has never coached outside the state, whose recruiting

See **SPARTANS**, page B3

Whirlpool CORPORATION

Athlete Spotlight

Photo provided

LaChelle Knox has emerged as an all-around contributor for Lake Michigan College basketball this season.

LaChelle Knox:

Lake Michigan College's do-it-all player

By BEN SPENCER
HP Sports Writer

Lake Michigan College's women's basketball team knows it has a well-rounded threat on the court in LaChelle Knox.

Knox, a sophomore guard at LMC and Lakeshore graduate, has been a consistent leader on the floor in her two seasons.

Currently, Knox is the Redhawks' fourth-leading scorer this season at 8.2 points per game.

But she's earned a reputation as more than a scorer on the court.

"LaChelle is an integral part of this team," said Lake Michigan College Athletic Director Melissa Grau. "She always puts the team before herself. We would not be as successful as we have been without her leadership."

Knox is the team's leading rebounder, averaging 10.5 per game. She also averages 3.7 assists per game and 1.7 steals per game, both good enough for second on the team.

She is the only player to have started all 22 of LMC's games.

Last season, Knox was also a key player, with most of her minutes coming off the bench for a team that won the MCCAA championship.

After graduation this spring, Knox said she plans to attend a four-year university, though as of right now she is unsure where. She is currently working toward her associate degree in science, and said she might pursue athletic training or physical therapy at the next level.

LMC is sitting at 8-15 overall with six games left on the schedule.

What do you see as your strength on the court?

My strength on the court, I'd have to say, is rebounding. As of right now I'm the top rebounder for LMC. I mostly get my rebounds off of the offensive side, just trying to crash the boards and get second-chance points for my team. But that's what I feel my biggest strength is, just going to the boards, trying to get the ball and get a putback.

How was it last season being a part of a state championship team?

Last year was really fun. We had three people that we lost from that team, Monae Palmer, Breanna (Alexander) and Sam (Jenkins). They were leaders both on the court and off the court, so playing with them was an experience that I really enjoyed. I wish I had that again this year, but this year I have to be a leader for my team and step up. Playing in last year's state game, it was unreal. I didn't feel like I was actually playing, but I was there and thought, 'wow, this is amazing.'

Do you have any goals set for your last few games as RedHawk?

My goal is to win every game we have left. I know that we're struggling, but I feel like it's a turning point for us. We just beat (Grand Rapids Community College), and I feel like that's going to spark something in all of us. My goal is to make it to districts, make it to state and hopefully nationals again.

Have you always wanted to play basketball in college?

I've always wanted to play basketball in college. Ever since I was a little kid that was my goal. It didn't matter about any other sports, it was just basketball. I tried doing other sports in high school, it just didn't work.

What will you miss most about your time at LMC playing basketball?

Something I'll miss the most is the atmosphere. We're a small school, but everyone still comes to support us. We always have someone in our corner. Nobody ever forgets about us because of our record. They always come support us.

Contact: bspencer@TheHP.com, 429-1294, @HPBen Spencer

The Herald-Palladium's Athlete Spotlight, sponsored by Whirlpool Corp., appears weekly on Tuesday in The HP Sports section during the school year. Athletes are chosen by HP staff members. Suggestions for Athlete Spotlight are welcome. Email suggestions to sports@TheHP.com. Athletes are limited to one selection per school year.

New 'smart mound' can help analyze pitchers' efficiency

By PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

FARMINGTON, Conn. — Central Connecticut pitcher Michael Delease was throwing fastballs inside the Center for Motion Analysis and wasn't getting much movement on his pitches.

His problem was quickly diagnosed by coaches and scientists looking at data gathered by the instrumented pitching mound from which he was throwing, the electrodes attached to his body and the motion-capture cameras in the lab.

A slight arm angle adjustment and moments later, Delease's ball was jumping.

"Just a couple little tweaks and my spin rate went up by a few hundred RPMs," the senior said. "It really improved it. That's leaps and bounds from where I was at."

The Center for Motion Analysis at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center is known in the world of kinesiology for its work with athletes, studying how their bodies move and learning how those motions can impact efficiency and injuries.

For a week in January, researchers there conducted a study of pitchers using a new tool, the "smart" mound, developed by a company called Newtforce.

The mound, really an instrumented ramp, measures ground forces generated during each part of a pitch, from wind-up to follow-through.

When linked to the bio-sensors placed on a pitcher's body and the

See **MOUND**, page B3

IN BRIEF

Ahmed, D-backs agree to $32.5 million, 4-year deal

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona Diamondbacks capped a busy offseason by locking down their two-time Gold Glove shortstop, who has slowly turned into a solid offensive threat.

The D-backs announced Monday that they've agreed to a $32.5 million, four-year deal with Nick Ahmed that runs through the 2023 season. The 29-year-old Ahmed was eligible for salary arbitration and had his hearing scheduled for Wednesday, but that won't be needed thanks to the deal.

Ahmed said his comfort in Arizona – along with the team's offseason moves that included adding pitcher Madison Bumgarner and outfielder Kole Calhoun – made staying with the Diamondbacks very appealing.

Ahmed has had a reputation as an elite defensive shortstop since his debut with the D-backs in 2014 and has steadily improved his hitting. He hit a career-high .254 last season with 19 homers and 82 RBIs in 158 games.

Bryan brothers to make 1 last Davis Cup appearance

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Twins Bob and Mike Bryan will bid farewell to the Davis Cup by playing in the team competition for the final time when the United States hosts Uzbekistan in Hawaii next month.

U.S. captain Mardy Fish announced his roster on Monday, with the Bryan brothers joined by Taylor Fritz, Reilly Opelka and Tommy Paul in the best-of-five series in Honolulu on March 6-7.

The matches will be played on an indoor hard court.

The winning country will qualify for the Davis Cup Finals at Madrid in November.

The 41-year-old Bryans have won a record 16 men's doubles Grand Slam titles as a pairing. They also helped the Americans win the 2007 Davis Cup.

The last time they played together for the United States was in 2016.

They have said that 2020 will be their final season on tour, wrapping up with the U.S. Open in September.

Fritz, Opelka and Paul are all 22 years old. Paul is making his debut as a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team.

Oilers sign Nurse to 2-year extension

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — The Edmonton Oilers signed defenseman Darnell Nurse to a two-year contract extension Monday.

The 25-year-old has 24 points (four goals, 20 assists) and 44 penalty minutes in 55 games this season.

Terms weren't released for the new contract, which runs through the 2021-22 season.

Nurse was selected by the Oilers with the No. 7 pick of the 2013 draft.

He has 112 points (28 goals, 84 assists) in 334 regular-season games with Edmonton.

Columbus star Jones out with ankle injury

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Columbus Blue Jackets star defenseman Seth Jones has been sidelined indefinitely with an ankle injury.

The team said Monday that Jones was injured in Saturday night's game loss to Colorado. The announcement came hours before the Blue Jackets face the surging Tampa Bay Lightning.

The three-time All-Star has six goals and 24 assists this season while leading the club in ice time.

Gabriel Carlsson was recalled from Cleveland (AHL) to take Jones' place.

The Blue Jackets also announced that they brought up prospect Liam Foudy on emergency recall from the Ontario Hockey League's London Knights.

AIRWAVES

Television today

6:30 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Penn State at Purdue. (Live) CC
7:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Basketball** Kentucky at Vanderbilt. (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** NC State at Syracuse. (Live)
(FoxDetroit) **NHL Hockey** Detroit Red Wings at Buffalo Sabres. (Live)
(NBCSCH) **NBA Basketball** Chicago Bulls at Washington Wizards. (Live)
(NBCSports) **NHL Hockey** Philadelphia Flyers at New York Islanders. (Live)
(TNT) **NBA Basketball** Los Angeles Clippers at Philadelphia 76ers. (Live) CC
8:30 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Nebraska at Maryland. (Live) CC
9:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Basketball** Michigan State at Illinois. (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Notre Dame at Virginia. (Live)
9:30 p.m. (TNT) **NBA Basketball** Boston Celtics at Houston Rockets. (Live) CC
10:00 p.m. (NBCSCH) **NHL Hockey** Chicago Blackhawks at Edmonton Oilers. (Live)
11:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** New Mexico at San Diego State. (Live)

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Creighton at Seton Hall. (Live) CC
7:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Rutgers at Ohio State. (Live) CC
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Alabama at Auburn. (Live)
(FoxDetroit) **NBA Basketball** Detroit Pistons at Orlando Magic. (Live)
7:30 p.m. (ESPN) **NBA Basketball** Milwaukee Bucks at Indiana Pacers. (Live)
(NBCSports) **NHL Hockey** Montreal Canadiens at Boston Bruins. (Live)
8:30 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Marquette at Villanova. (Live) CC
9:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Michigan at Northwestern. (Live) CC
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Iowa State at Oklahoma. (Live)
(Golf) **LPGA Tour Golf** ISPS Handa Australian Open, First Round. (Live)
10:00 p.m. (ESPN) **NBA Basketball** Los Angeles Lakers at Denver Nuggets. (Live)
(NBCSports) **NHL Hockey** Calgary Flames at Los Angeles Kings. (Live)
10:30 p.m. (NBCSCH) **NHL Hockey** Chicago Blackhawks at Vancouver Canucks. (Live)

Radio today

7 p.m.
High school basketball — Coloma at Benton Harbor (WSJM-AM, 1400; WSJM-FM, 106.1)
9 p.m.
College basketball — Michigan State at Illinois (WCSY-FM, 103.7)

Wednesday

6:30 p.m.
College basketball — Xavier at Butler (WSJM-AM, 1400; WSJM-FM, 106.1)
9 p.m.
College basketball — Michigan at Northwestern (WSJM-AM, 1400; WSJM-FM, 106.1)

CONTACT US

The Herald-Palladium sports desk is staffed after 7 p.m. nightly. Coaches or managers are asked to report results as soon as possible the evening of the event for publication in the next day's edition.

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Pistons' offense sputters in loss to Hornets

By DAVE HOGG
Associated Press

DETROIT — Miles Bridges scored 18 points and the Charlotte Hornets ended a five-game losing streak with an 87-76 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Monday night.

Charlotte 87, Detroit 76

The win was Charlotte's 10th straight against Detroit, including two consecutive 4-0 season sweeps. The Hornets are 13-36 against the rest of the league and had lost 13 of their previous 14 games.

Malik Monk added 16 points for the Hornets while Devonte' Graham had 14 points and 11 assists. Charlotte won despite shooting 37.5 percent from the floor.

The Pistons have lost three straight and nine of 11. Thon Maker led Detroit with 12 points and a career-high 12 rebounds. Bruce Brown added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Detroit shot 35.4 percent and turned the ball over 21 times for 24 points.

After trailing by as many as 15 points in the first half, Detroit got as close as two in the third quarter. However, late 3-pointers by Monk and Bridges put Charlotte ahead 66-59 going into the fourth.

The Hornets led 70-63 with 7:51 to play, then went on an 8-0 run that included 3-pointers from Jalen McDaniels and Graham. That gave them another 15-point lead.

One week after scoring a season-worst 10 points in a quarter against the Memphis Grizzles, the Pistons only scored 11 in the first period against the Hornets. Charlotte led 47-37 at the half, holding Detroit to 32.5 percent shooting and forcing 11 turnovers.

TIP INS

Hornets: Bridges grew up in Flint, about an hour north of Detroit, and played at Michigan State. His college career ended at Little Caesars Arena when the Spartans were upset by Syracuse in the 2018 NCAA tournament. … Cody Zeller left in the third quarter with a facial laceration, but returned to finish the game.

Pistons: John Henson, acquired at the trade deadline as part of the Andre Drummond trade, hit his first nine shots as a Piston before missing a tip-in attempt in the fourth quarter.

UP NEXT

Hornets: Visit the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday.

Pistons: Visit the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday.

Off to college

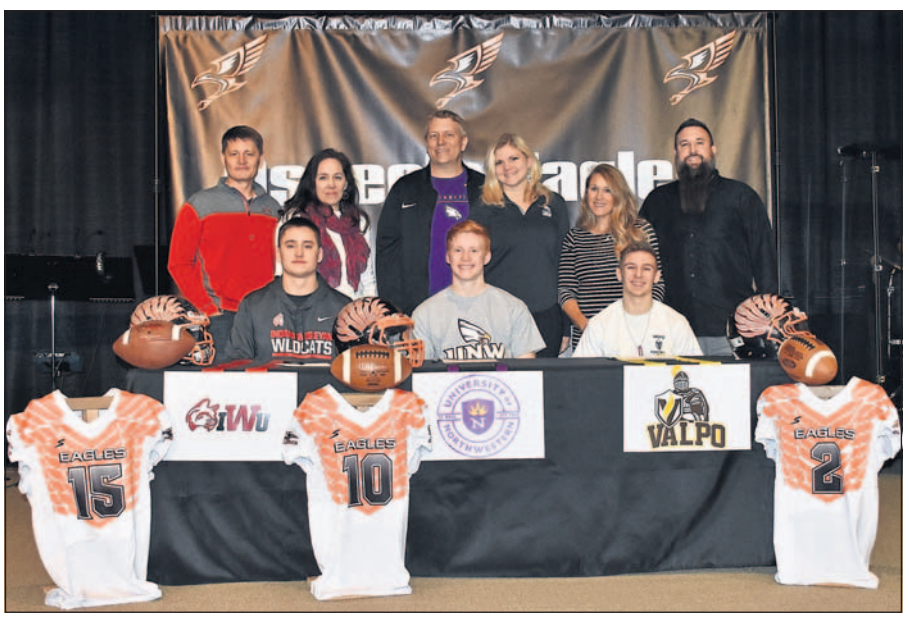

Photo provided

Stevensville native Zac Key, a member of the Osceola Grace Eagles club football team, will continue his football career at Indiana Wesleyan University. Key is in the left of the front row, joined by teammates Jake Eriks (center) and Charlie Maxwell (right).

AP Exclusive: NCAA, 2 conferences spend $750,000 on lobbying

By BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Congress considers whether to allow college athletes to receive endorsement money, the NCAA and its allies spent at least $750,000 last year lobbying lawmakers to shape any reforms to the organization's liking.

The NCAA last fall said it would allow athletes to "benefit from the use of their name, image and likeness" and is crafting rules to put in place for its 1,100 member schools. But the organization has turned to Congress to step in as more and more states follow the lead of California, where a law set to take effect in 2023 clears the way for athletes to earn endorsement money.

Organizations representing athletes have no paid lobbyists, leading to concern among some reform advocates that the deep-pocketed NCAA is shaping the debate. The NCAA's pressure campaign comes as the Senate prepares for a committee hearing Tuesday on player compensation.

"The NCAA is going to fight for the status quo," said Ramogi Huma, executive director of the National College Players Association.

Rep. Mark Walker, a North Carolina Republican who introduced a bill last spring that would guarantee players the right to earn money from their name, image and likeness, told The Associated Press "there's no question" the NCAA's lobbying has been effective.

"The NCAA is already at a position of power," Walker said. "Otherwise you would have seen progress. ... There's been little to nothing done in this arena, and had the student-athlete had proper representation on the federal level, we'd be much further down this path than we are."

The NCAA spent $450,000 last year on lobbying, according to disclosure forms reviewed by the AP. Of that total, $240,000 went to an outside firm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, and $210,000 went to its in-house lobbyists. That's the most the organization has spent on lobbying in any year since 2014. And it got some help from two of the Power Five conferences.

The Atlantic Coast Conference hired lobbyists last year for the first time, giving at least $210,000 to the law firm DLA Piper and another lobbyist, Tom Korologos, to influence Congress on "legislative and regulatory proposals affecting intercollegiate athletes," disclosure forms show.

The Big 12 Conference has worked with lobbyist Kenny Hulshof, a former Republican congressman from Missouri, for several years, but it paid him less than $5,000 per quarter before ramping up its spending last year, records show. In the last six months of 2019, the Big 12 paid Hulshof $90,000 – some of it specifically to address Walker's bill.

In total, the NCAA and the two conferences spent at least $750,000 on lobbying last year.

The NCAA's ability to spend big on lobbying is a symptom of the larger problem, according to advocates for player compensation: a college sports system that generates $14 billion a year from athletes who are compensated only in scholarships and other education-specific aid.

"The NCAA is a well-heeled organization and college athletes, not by accident, don't have the kind of organizational power or influence that the NCAA does," Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat who supports giving players more earning power, told the AP. "You have to be more assiduous in soliciting the opinion of athletes than you do the NCAA."

The NCAA and its allies have a big reason to increase their spending: If Congress does nothing, athlete-friendly laws like the one in California will take effect around the country. Huma said 28 states are considering action to grant additional rights to college players.

Tom McMillen, president and CEO of the LEAD1 Association, a trade group for Division I athletic directors, shrugged off the influence of lobbying.

"You can have all the lobbyists in the world, but it doesn't really make a difference," he said. "This is a complicated process, getting something done through Congress in any kind of timely fashion."

While he is not a registered lobbyist, McMillen, an 11-year NBA veteran and former Democratic congressman from Maryland who wrote a book in 1992 on the corrupting influence of money on college sports, is an eloquent advocate for the NCAA's position. He said it's essential to have "guardrails" on player compensation.

A panel discussion last month at Georgetown University's law school was striking for the uniformity of participants' views on the subject. McMillen appeared alongside Donald Remy, the NCAA's chief legal counsel, and Amy Perko, CEO of the Knight Commission – a reform-minded nonprofit. All three agreed restrictions had to be placed on name, image and likeness compensation to avoid wrecking college sports as we know it.

"We are all committed to preserving the system of college athletics that exists nowhere else in the world," Remy said.

McMillen said if player compensation reform was not done properly, it could lead to the "full professionalization of our college campuses." Among the restrictions he said were necessary was a safeguard against players being paid exorbitant sums of money for endorsements or personal appearances, turning the compensation into "an end-around to pay athletes corruptly." Such deals could influence recruiting and destroy competitive balance, he said.

In a December meeting with Murphy and Sen. Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican, NCAA President Mark Emmert said "everyone agrees" schools shouldn't be able to use big endorsement deals to gain a recruiting advantage.

In fact, there's plenty of dissent on that subject. Advocates for athletes say there is plenty of corruption in recruiting already and that concerns about excessive money flowing to players are a stall tactic by the NCAA and its allies.

"In no other industry, in no other context on a college campus do we tell someone that we are going to curb your value," said Ricky Volante, CEO of the Professional Collegiate League, an upstart competitor to the NCAA that intends to pay salaries to college players.

Volante said he is concerned that no one is effectively countering the NCAA's messaging in Washington.

Chargers QB Rivers will enter free agency

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Philip Rivers' 16-year career with the Chargers has come to an end.

The franchise announced Monday that Rivers will enter free agency and won't return to Los Angeles for the upcoming season. General manager Tom Telesco said in a statement that as they talked through various scenarios with Rivers, it became apparent it would be best for both "to turn the page on what has truly been a remarkable run."

Rivers' future in powder blue was the main storyline late in the season after the Chargers were eliminated from postseason consideration. He said during the final weeks that he intended to play in 2020, even if that meant going to another team.

The 38-year old Rivers was emotional and in a reflective mood after the Chargers' 31-21 loss to Kansas City in the season finale. He acknowledged it would be weird to be in another uniform but didn't think it would be much of an adjustment.

Los Angeles made the playoffs in 2018 but was 5-11 this season with nine losses by one score. The seven-win decline was the worst dropoff in the league in 2019 and the second biggest in franchise history. Rivers' 4,615 passing yards were fourth in the league, but his 20 interceptions were third most and just one off tying a career high.

Rivers moved his family to Florida last month from their longtime home in San Diego. He commuted between the team's Orange County headquarters and San Diego since the franchise moved in 2017.

"I am very grateful to the Spanos family and the Chargers organization for the last 16 years," Rivers said in a statement. "In anything you do, it's the people you do it with that make it special. There are so many relationships and memories with coaches, support staff and teammates that will last forever, and for that I am so thankful. We had a lot of great moments, beginning in San Diego and then finishing in LA. I wish my teammates and coaches nothing but the best moving forward."

Rivers was selected fourth overall by the New York Giants in the 2004 draft but was traded to the Chargers in a draft day deal for Eli Manning, who announced his retirement last month.

Rivers went on to set 30 franchise records with the Chargers and was an eight-time selection to the Pro Bowl. He also led the Chargers to the playoffs six times but only twice since 2010.

High school scoreboard

GIRLS BASKETBALL

KALAMAZOO LOY NORRIX 41, BERRIEN SPRINGS 35

LOY NORRIX (41)
White 7 3-10 18, Miedema 3 1-2 7, Gutierrez 2 0-0 6, Williams 1 2-2 5, Konjoh 2 1-4 5. Totals: 15 7-18 41.
BERRIEN SPRINGS (35)
Hillary Dortch 6 2-4 15, Zoe Dortch 4 3-4 11, Taneya Shivers 1 1-2 3, Emma Tyson 1 0-0 2, Miracle Love 1 0-0 2, Maggie Griffiths 1 0-0 2. Totals: 14 6-10 35.

Berrien Springs	**8**	**8**	**7**	**12**	**– 35**
Loy Norrix	**4**	**3**	**16**	**18**	**– 41**

3-point goals – Loy Norrix 4 (Gutierrez 2, Williams, White), Berrien Springs (H. Dortch). Total fouls – Berrien Springs 14, Loy Norrix 12. Fouled out – None. Technical fouls – None.
Records – Berrien Springs 5-11, Loy Norrix 3-12.

LAKESHORE 44, PAW PAW 38

LAKESHORE – Hollee Hercik 13 points, Riley Pifer 11 points, Jayden Schmaltz 5 points, Olivia Trivedi 5 points.

Lakeshore	**2**	**6**	**22**	**14**	**– 44**
Paw Paw	**12**	**7**	**4**	**15**	**– 38**

Records – Lakeshore 4-11, Paw Paw 5-10
Complete results unavailable

SAUGATUCK 55, BENTON HARBOR 39

BENTON HARBOR (39)
Shaliyah Perkins 13 points, Eshanti Bell 6 points, Jmya Jordan 4 points, Kyra Nichols 2 points, Tyshay Williams 4 points, Desrae Kyles 3 points, Breasia Hill 5 points, Kendra Kyles 2 points.
SAUGATUCK (55)
Lauren Barnhill 2 points, Carissa Moehler 12 points, Zoe Myers 23 points, Katie Avers 6 points, Emma Deboor 3 points, Graelynn Miller 1 point, Machezie Pearson 3 points, Lauren Miller 5 points.

Saugatuck	**14**	**17**	**10**	**14**	**– 55**
Benton Harbor	**12**	**11**	**9**	**7**	**– 39**

Total fouls – Benton Harbor 13 fouls, Saugatuck 14. Fouled out – None. Technical fouls – None.
Records – Benton Harbor 3-11, Saugatuck 8-8.
Complete results unavailable

BUCHANAN 42, DOWAGIAC 22

BUCHANAN (42)
Faith Carson 9 0-3 18, Alea Fisher 3 3-4 11, Emma Lozmack 2 1-2 7, Claire Lietz 1 1-2 4. Totals: 15 7-15 42.
DOWAGIAC (22)
A. Donner 3 4-6 10, S. Carpenter 1 3-4 5, C. Ruff 1 0-2 2, K. Beattie 0 2-2 2, M. Hill 1 0-0 2, G. Whitaker 0 1-2 1. Totals: 6 10-16 22.

Buchanan	**11**	**11**	**14**	**6**	**– 42**
Dowagiac	**4**	**6**	**8**	**4**	**– 22**

3-point goals – Buchanan 5 (Lozmack 2, Fisher 2, Letz). Total fouls – Buchanan 9, Dowagiac 13. Fouled out – None. Technical fouls – None.
Records – Buchanan 11-4, Berrien Springs 5-11.

BOYS BASKETBALL

RIVER VALLEY 56, LAWRENCE 28

LAWRENCE – Kaleb Smith 9 points.
Complete results unavailable

BOYS BOWLING

COLOMA 15, CONSTANTINE 15

Team totals – Coloma 1565, Constantine 1542
Baker games – Coloma 160, Constantine 145; Constantine 164, Coloma 127.
Coloma individuals (2 games) – Jonathan Swetay 356, Nick Santarlas 320, Ryan Wilson 316.
Constantine individuals (2 games) – Corey Goldsmith 313, Connor Platz 272, Ed Walgamood 377, Jake Derda 338.

GIRLS BOWLING

COLOMA 29, CONSTANTINE 1

Team totals – Coloma 1583, Constantine 1265.
Baker games – Coloma 141, Constantine 126; Coloma 154, Constantine 104
Coloma individuals (2 games) – Ashley Ikerd 328, Carissa Richmond 300, Morgan Hosbein 353, Emily Feldten 347.
Constantine individuals – Natalie Jensen 202, Skylar Perkins 245, Maddie Lloyd 230, Linsey Stears 278.

SCOREBOARD

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Standings through Saturday's games

Girls
SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
West Division

	Div	Overall
St. Joseph	7-0	10-5
Portage Central	6-1	12-2
Niles	5-2	8-6
Mattawan	2-5	6-9
Lakeshore	1-6	3-11
Portage Northern	0-7	3-12

East Division

	Div	Overall
BC Lakeview	4-1	10-4
Kal. Central	3-1	7-7
BC Central	3-2	11-3
Gull Lake	1-3	6-7
Kal. Loy Norrix	0-4	2-11

WOLVERINE CONFERENCE
North Division

	Div	Overall
Plainwell	7-0	11-3
Otsego	4-2	6-9
Allegan	2-4	5-9
Paw Paw	2-4	5-9
South Haven	1-6	2-13

South Division

	Div	Overall
Edwardsburg	6-1	14-1
Three Rivers	5-1	12-3
Sturgis	3-4	7-8
Vicksburg	2-4	7-8
Dowagiac	0-8	1-13

BERRIEN-CASS-ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE
Red Division

	Div	Overall
Brandywine	7-0	14-0
Buchanan	5-1	9-4
Berrien Springs	3-4	5-10
Comstock	3-4	3-11
Bridgman	2-5	3-11
Parchment	0-7	0-15

White Division

	Div	Overall
Michigan Lutheran	9-1	13-1
New Buffalo	8-2	11-4
River Valley	8-2	10-4
Lake Michigan Catholic	5-5	7-7
Lawrence	4-5	4-10
Howardsville Christian	3-6	3-8
Countryside	2-8	2-8
Covert	0-10	2-10

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
Lakeshore Division

	Div	Overall
Martin	6-1	13-1
Gobles	6-1	12-2
Coloma	4-3	6-8
Fennville	3-4	6-9
Saugatuck	2-5	7-8
Watervliet	0-7	4-12

Valley Division

	Div	Overall
Schoolcraft	8-0	13-1
Kal. Hackett	6-1	11-3
Kal. Christian	6-2	11-4
Delton Kellogg	3-5	7-8
Galesburg-Augusta	2-5	8-7
Constantine	2-6	4-9
Lawton	0-8	0-15

SOUTHWEST 10 CONFERENCE

	Conf	Overall
Centreville	10-1	13-1
Bloomingdale	10-2	10-4
White Pigeon	9-3	10-4
Decatur	8-3	11-3
Hartford	5-6	7-6
Marcellus	4-7	7-7
Cassopolis	2-7	3-7
Mendon	1-9	2-9
Bangor	0-11	1-12

INDEPENDENT

	Overall
Benton Harbor	3-10

Boys
SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
West Division

	Div	Overall
Portage Central	6-0	11-1
Lakeshore	5-1	12-2
Portage Northern	3-3	7-5
St. Joseph	2-4	3-10
Mattawan	1-5	2-11
Niles	1-5	2-11

East Division

	Div	Overall
Kal. Central	5-0	10-3
Gull Lake	3-2	6-7
BC Lakeview	2-2	8-4
BC Central	1-4	5-9
Kal. Loy Norrix	1-4	3-10

WOLVERINE CONFERENCE
North Division

	Div	Overall
Otsego	5-0	13-1
Plainwell	4-2	4-10
South Haven	3-3	6-7
Paw Paw	2-4	5-9
Allegan	0-5	2-11

South Division

	Div	Overall
Dowagiac	5-1	9-5
Edwardsburg	5-1	9-6
Vicksburg	2-3	6-8
Sturgis	2-4	7-6
Three Rivers	0-5	4-8

BERRIEN-CASS-ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE
Red Division

	Div	Overall
Brandywine	5-1	11-1
Parchment	4-2	7-6
Bridgman	3-2	9-4
Buchanan	3-2	9-2
Comstock	2-4	4-7
Berrien Springs	0-6	4-8

White Division

	Div	Overall
River Valley	9-0	11-2
New Buffalo	7-1	7-5
Lawrence	5-4	6-8
Howardsville Christian	5-4	6-7
Michigan Lutheran	4-4	6-6
Countryside	4-5	4-6
Lake Michigan Catholic	2-8	2-9
Covert	0-10	0-13

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
Lakeshore Division

	Div	Overall
Fennville	7-0	11-2
Gobles	4-3	9-4
Martin	4-3	6-8
Coloma	3-4	6-7
Watervliet	2-5	5-9
Saugatuck	1-6	2-11

Valley Division

	Div	Overall
Schoolcraft	8-0	14-0
Kal. Christian	6-2	10-4
Kal. Hackett	4-3	6-7
Delton Kellogg	4-4	7-6
Constantine	3-5	5-8
Lawton	2-6	4-10
Galesburg-Augusta	0-7	1-12

SOUTHWEST 10 CONFERENCE

	Conf	Overall
Marcellus	10-1	11-2
Bloomingdale	9-2	11-2
Cassopolis	8-2	8-4
Centreville	8-3	9-4
White Pigeon	6-5	6-6
Eau Claire	5-5	6-6
Hartford	4-7	5-8
Decatur	2-9	3-10
Mendon	1-9	1-9
Bangor	0-10	0-11

INDEPENDENT

	Overall
Benton Harbor	14-1

Michigan prep girls basketball poll
The top 10 teams in the Michigan Associated Press high school basketball poll.

Division 1

School	Total	Points
1. East Lansing (3)	(13-1)	73
2. Hudsonville (2)	(14-0)	72
3. Bloomfield Hills Marian	(13-2)	62
4. Hartland	(13-1)	54
(tie) Farmington Hills Mercy	(14-1)	54
6. Brighton	(13-1)	50
7. East Grand Rapids	(14-1)	42
8. Detroit Renaissance	(14-2)	40
9. Flint Carman Ainsworth	(13-1)	32
10. Port Huron	(17-0)	27

Others receiving 12 or more votes: Midland Dow 20.

Division 2

School	Total	Points
1. Detroit Edison (5)	(13-0)	75
2. Chelsea	(13-1)	69
3. Portland	(15-1)	62
4. Cadillac	(14-0)	60
5. Menominee	(15-0)	56
6. Edwardsburg	(14-1)	51
7. GRapids Christian	(12-2)	41
8. GRapids West Catholic	(14-1)	35
9. Goodrich	(12-2)	33
10. Parma Western	(12-2)	30

Others receiving 12 or more votes: Williamston 28, Battle Creek Harper Creek 13.

Division 3

School	Total	Points
1. Pewamo-Westphalia (3)	(12-2)	73
2. Kent City	(15-1)	65
3. Byron (1)	(14-0)	59
4. Grass Lake	(13-2)	52
(tie) Michigan Center	(12-3)	52
6. Lake City	(12-1)	46
7. Manton (1)	(14-1)	44
8. Brandywine	**(14-0)**	**40**
9. Flint Hamady	(13-2)	39
10. Ypsilanti Arbor Prep	(14-4)	29

Others receiving votes: Maple City Glen Lake 16, Schoolcraft 13, Hemlock 12.

Division 4

School	Total	Points
1. Adrian Lenawee Chr. (4)	(13-1)	60
2. Bellaire	(14-0)	53
3. St. Ignace LaSalle	(12-2)	52
4. Mt Pleasant Sac Heart	(14-0)	51
5. Martin	(13-1)	39
6. Michigan Lutheran	**(13-1)**	**37**
7. Camden-Frontier	(14-1)	33
8. Allen Park Inter-City Bap.	(11-0)	31
9. Kingston	(13-1)	28
(tie) Pittsford	(14-1)	28

Others receiving 12 or more votes: Ewen-Trout Creek 27.

Michigan prep boys basketball poll

Division 1

School	Total	Points
1. River Rouge (5)	(15-1)	75
2. Orchard Lake St. Mary's	(13-1)	67
3. Clarkston	(12-1)	66
4. Detroit Cass Tech	(15-1)	60
5. Ann Arbor Huron	(13-0)	57
6. Ypsilanti Lincoln	(11-2)	50
7. Mount Pleasant	(13-0)	38
8. Waterford Mott	(11-2)	36
9. Muskegon	(11-2)	34
10. Grand Blanc	(12-3)	31

Others receiving 12 or more votes: Detroit King 26, Hudsonville 13.

Division 2

School	Total	Points
1. GRapids Christian (2)	(13-0)	69
2. Williamston (2)	(14-1)	68
3. Benton Harbor (1)	**(14-1)**	**65**
4. Goodrich	(13-1)	51
5. Croswell-Lexington	(13-1)	50
6. Bridgeport	(14-1)	47
7. GRapids Catholic Central	(12-2)	43
8. Detroit Douglass	(14-3)	40
9. Otsego	(13-1)	39
10. Carrollton	(12-0)	27

Others receiving votes: Ovid-Elsie 22, Frankenmuth 21, Cadillac 21.

Division 3

School	Total	Points
1. Flint Beecher (3)	(13-1)	73
2. Iron Mountain (2)	(13-0)	70
3. Schoolcraft	(14-0)	57
(tie) Hanover-Horton	(11-1)	57
5. Ravenna	(13-0)	53
6. Oscoda	(13-0)	48
(tie) Pewamo-Westphalia	(12-1)	48
8. Negaunee	(12-1)	32
9. Detroit Edison	(8-3)	28
10. Blissfield	(12-1)	25

Others receiving votes: Maple City Glen Lake 20, **Brandywine 16**, Hemlock 12.

Division 4

School	Total	Points
1. Southfield Christian (3)	(11-3)	59
2. Kingston (1)	(14-0)	56
3. Dollar Bay	(13-0)	53
4. Hillsdale Academy	(12-1)	44
5. Hale	(14-1)	43
6. Pickford	(10-1)	40
7. Camden-Frontier	(12-2)	34
8. Rudyard	(10-2)	27
9. Pellston	(11-2)	24
10. Frankfort-Elberta	(11-2)	19

Others receiving votes: Gaylord St. Mary 18, Flint International 13.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's AP Top 25 poll
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 9, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Baylor (48)	21-1	1583	1
2. Gonzaga (15)	25-1	1546	2
3. Kansas (1)	20-3	1450	3
4. San Diego St.	24-0	1422	4
5. Louisville	21-3	1331	5
6. Dayton	21-2	1255	6
7. Duke	20-3	1211	7
8. Florida St.	20-3	1170	8
9. Maryland	19-4	1057	9
10. Seton Hall	18-5	1013	12
11. Auburn	21-2	998	11
12. Kentucky	18-5	853	15
13. Penn St.	18-5	787	22
14. West Virginia	18-5	721	13
15. Villanova	17-6	581	10
16. Colorado	19-5	567	24
17. Oregon	18-6	497	14
18. Marquette	17-6	425	—
19. Butler	18-6	414	19
20. Houston	19-5	402	25
21. Iowa	17-7	374	17
22. Illinois	16-7	235	20
23. Creighton	18-6	213	21
24. Texas Tech	15-8	169	—
25. LSU	17-6	160	18

Others receiving votes: Michigan St. 124, Rhode Island 57, N. Iowa 44, BYU 43, Arizona 34, Purdue 27, Ohio St. 14, Cincinnati 6, Stephen F. Austin 6, Michigan 3, ETSU 2, Rutgers 2, Virginia 2, Winthrop 1, Wright St. 1.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Maryland	9	3	.750	19	4	.826
Penn St.	8	4	.667	18	5	.783
Illinois	8	4	.667	16	7	.696
Iowa	8	5	.615	17	7	.708
Rutgers	8	5	.615	17	7	.708
Michigan St.	8	5	.615	16	8	.667
Purdue	7	6	.538	14	10	.583
Wisconsin	7	6	.538	14	10	.583
Minnesota	6	7	.462	12	11	.522
Indiana	5	7	.417	15	8	.652
Ohio St.	5	7	.417	15	8	.652
Michigan	5	7	.417	14	9	.609
Nebraska	2	10	.167	7	16	.304
Northwestern	1	11	.083	6	16	.273

Today's Games
Penn St. at Purdue, 6:30 p.m.
Nebraska at Maryland, 8:30 p.m.
Michigan St. at Illinois, 9 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Rutgers at Ohio St., 7 p.m.
Michigan at Northwestern, 9 p.m.

Women's AP Top 25 poll
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 9, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. South Carolina (27)	22-1	747	1
2. Baylor (3)	21-1	716	2
3. Oregon	22-2	697	3
4. N.C. State	22-1	624	7
5. UConn	20-2	622	4
6. Mississippi St.	22-3	605	8
7. UCLA	21-2	576	10
8. Stanford	21-3	547	6
9. Louisville	21-3	506	5
10. Maryland	20-4	450	13
11. Oregon St.	19-5	428	9
12. Arizona	19-4	426	12
13. DePaul	22-3	382	14
14. Florida St.	20-4	368	17
15. Gonzaga	23-2	324	11
16. Texas A&M	18-5	251	16
17. Iowa	20-4	243	20
18. Kentucky	18-5	221	15
19. Northwestern	19-3	191	21
20. Indiana	19-6	176	18
21. South Dakota	22-2	146	22
22. Arizona St.	16-8	128	19
23. Arkansas	19-5	118	25
24. Missouri St.	20-3	106	24
25. Tennessee	17-6	47	23

Others receiving votes: Princeton 46, TCU 31, Florida Gulf Coast 13, LSU 10, Stony Brook 3, Cent. Michigan 1, Fresno St. 1.

NBA

Sunday's Games
Boston 112, Oklahoma City 111
Phila. 118, Chicago 111
Memphis 106, Washington 99
Atlanta 140, New York 135, 2OT
Utah 114, Houston 113
L.A. Clippers 133, Cleveland 92
Portland 115, Miami 109
Monday's Games
Orlando 135, Atlanta 126
Brooklyn 106, Indiana 105
Charlotte 87, Detroit 76
Toronto 137, Minnesota 126
Milwaukee 123, Sacramento 111
Utah 123, Dallas 119
San Antonio at Denver
Miami at Golden State
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers,
Today's Games
Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phila., 7 p.m.
Portland at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 9:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE 87, DETROIT 76

CHARLOTTE (87)
Bridges 7-15 2-2 18, Washington 4-10 0-0 8, Zeller 3-9 0-0 6, Graham 6-17 1-2 14, Rozier 4-13 2-2 11, Hernangomez 0-4 0-0 0, McDaniels 2-3 2-2 8, Ca.Martin 2-7 0-0 5, Monk 5-10 5-6 17. Totals 33-88 12-14 87.
DETROIT (76)
Snell 1-5 0-0 3, Wood 4-9 1-1 10, Maker 5-10 2-3 12, Brown 5-13 0-0 10, Jackson 2-11 2-2 8, Doumbouya 2-8 0-0 4, Morris 3-11 3-4 10, Henson 3-4 1-1 7, Galloway 3-7 2-2 9, Knight 1-4 0-0 3. Totals 29-82 11-13 76.

Charlotte	**21**	**26**	**19**	**21**	**—**	**87**
Detroit	**11**	**26**	**22**	**17**	**—**	**76**

3-Point Goals—Charlotte 9-36 (McDaniels 2-3, Monk 2-4, Bridges 2-7, Ca.Martin 1-3, Rozier 1-6, Graham 1-9, Washington 0-2), Detroit 7-35 (Jackson 2-7, Wood 1-2, Galloway 1-3, Knight 1-4, Snell 1-5, Morris 1-6, Brown 0-2, Doumbouya 0-3, Maker 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Charlotte 45 (Zeller 10), Detroit 52 (Brown, Maker 12). Assists—Charlotte 19 (Graham 11), Detroit 21 (Brown 5). Total Fouls—Charlotte 15, Detroit 18. A—13,941 (20,491)

NHL

Sunday's Games
Detroit 3, Boston 1
Anaheim 3, Buffalo 2
N.Y. Rangers 4, Los Angeles 1
Winnipeg 5, Chicago 2
Colorado 3, Minnesota 2
Monday's Games
Philadelphia 4, Florida 1
N.Y. Islanders 5, Washington 3
Arizona 3, Montreal 2
Tampa Bay 2, Columbus 1, OT
Nashville at Vancouver
Calgary at San Jose
Today's Games
Arizona at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Florida at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Chicago at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Ottawa at Colorado, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

WRESTLING

From page B1

Watervliet all contenders.

Defending regional champion Dowagiac is favored to win the other area D3 district at Brandywine. The Bobcats have won 19 of the last 20 D4 districts, but along with Watervliet have moved up to D3 this season.

Favored to win area D4 districts are Decatur and Cassopolis.

Individually, the area failed to produce a state champion in any division last year, but returns a number of wrestlers who placed high at state.

"Winning a state individual title is easier said than done," noted Bittenbender, whose program has produced a plethora of individual state champions. "Senior Shane Williams (32-1) is undoubtedly our best chance at bringing home a state title, but one never knows for sure. There are always surprises at state."

Niles Jamison Zimmerman is the only returning area state runnerup (D2-112 pounds). Taking thirds last season, and back for another shot are Lakeshore's Cam Litaker (now at 112), and Williams (135-140). Also, Coloma's Caeleb Ishmael was fourth at 103 (now 112).

Besides the other area returning state qualifiers listed on the accompanying graphic, Benton Harbor's Dashiande Harris-Moore (33-2 t 160) and St. Joseph sophomores Nolan Wertanen (35-2 at 103) and Jacob Halsey (34-4 at 125-130) have enjoyed very successful seasons. Wertanen was 26-1 as a freshman but was unable to compete in the tournament last year due to injury. In addition, other area matmen who did not qualify for state last season, but capable of making a run include: Niles' Mikey Robles (103) and Ryan Franco (130) and Lakeshore's Aaron Lucio (119) and James Harris (145).

TEAM DISTRICTS
Division 2
at St. Joseph
Thursday
Lakeshore vs. St. Joseph, 6
at Niles
Wednesday
Edwardsburg vs. Coldwater, 6
Sturgis vs. Niles, 6
Championship, 7:30
Division 3
at South Haven
Wednesday
Watervliet vs. South Haven, 6
Coloma vs. Fennville, 6
Championship, 7:30
at Brandywine
Wednesday
Buchanan vs. Brandywine, 6
Berrien Springs vs. Dowagiac, 6
Championship, 7:30
Division 4
at Decatur
Wednesday, Feb. 12
Lawrence vs. Hartford, 6
Decatur vs. Bangor, 6
Championship, 7:30
at Eau Claire
Thursday, Feb. 13
Cassopolis vs. River Valley, 6
Eau Claire vs. Cassopolis-River Valley winner, 7:30
INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS
Saturday
D2 at Lakeshore
D3 at Constantine
D4 at Bloomingdale and Lawton

SPARTANS

From page B1

ties there run deep. He was already beginning to land the type of regional recruits Dantonio once built the success of his program on while capturing three Big Ten titles, a Rose Bowl, a Cotton Bowl and a berth in the 2015 College Football Playoff.

Fickell had experience at Ohio State, like Dantonio – even running the program for a year. He had shown the ability to win in three years at Cincy, including back-to-back 11-win seasons. He appeared to be on the verge of making the jump to a Power 5 conference and, at 46 years old, is young enough to make his next stop his final destination.

Maybe that will still happen. Some day.

It won't be in East Lansing.

The Fickell Fallout comes at a point where almost every problem at MSU has been magnified to the nth-degree, every decision scrutinized with a microscope, since fall 2016.

Dantonio's program collapsed after reaching unthinkable heights. After being shut out in the College Football Playoff, a 3-9 season in 2016 halted all momentum.

Then the sexual assault allegations came in January 2017, followed by the dismissal of Curtis Blackwell and his ongoing federal lawsuit for wrongful termination, in which Dantonio is one of the defendants. The timing of those problems coincided with the Larry Nassar fiasco, which operated in a different silo but gets lumped under the same MSU umbrella.

Then the leadership of the university crumbled, with Lou Anna Simon resigning as president and former athletic director Mark Hollis doing the same two days later in early 2018.

Both are defendants with Dantonio in Blackwell's suit.

On the field, the Spartans' offensive woes during the 2018 season and Dantonio's quizzical refusal to make any changes to his coaching staff, other than moving assistants to different positions, hurt the program. It resulted in more of the same in 2019 and an identical 7-6 record.

Dantonio promised to assess the situation after the Spartans' Dec. 27 Pinstripe Bowl win over Wake Forest, only to go silent until his announced decision to retire last week.

This was a moment the university's new leadership, with Beekman and president Samuel Stanley, needed to show renewed competence, to rebuild some confidence in an alumni and fan base that has been reeling as it watched one misstep after another for four years.

Instead, MSU out-MSU'd itself. Again.

Now they must scramble to avoid this becoming a Same Ol' Spartans situation.

What's next? Hard to say, since what is predictable never seems to come to fruition on the banks of the Red Cedar.

Externally, MSU leadership could put their tail between their legs and re-approach Narduzzi at Pitt or Tucker at Colorado. But would either consider the job knowing they were a second or third option? And how much more leverage would that knowledge give them, this far into the offseason?

An also-ran coach at this point, or someone out of a job, will do nothing to appease fans.

It could make sense in timing to turn to the NFL ranks, though Saleh, a Dearborn native, says he isn't leaving the 49ers.

An alum like Pat Shurmur, who recently got fired as head coach of the New York Giants, could possibly be swayed to leave his new job as offensive coordinator with the Denver Broncos to return to his alma mater. There are other names who could be interested, but the shift from pro to college can be an extended process.

Internally, Dantonio's protegee, Mike Tressel, sits at the helm of the football program on an interim basis. Dantonio has been close to the Tressel family, working with his uncle, Jim Tressel, at Youngstown State and Ohio State for decades. The 46-year-old MSU defensive coordinator has never been a head coach at any level, and Dantonio only promoted him to assistant head coach before the 2019 season.

There are a few coaches on staff with head coaching experience, but both Don Treadwell and Paul Haynes failed miserably in their stints at Miami (Ohio) and Kent State, respectively. Offensive coordinator Brad Salem also had a successful stint at head coach at Augustana College in South Dakota, but that was at the Division II level and his one year running the Spartans' offense this season did little to improve MSU's output.

Depending on how much Dantonio's input and influence was used to push his understudies, in promoting Tressel and pursuing Fickell, it could be time for the university's leadership to make a clean sweep of Dantonio's footprint. That may be hard to admit, and the unknown can be just as daunting (see John L. Smith), but it was his decision and timing that put MSU in such a precarious position. When it could least afford to err.

That's what the new leadership has done, however. Significant damage already has been done. The program is in a dangerous state of limbo, with spring practices expected to begin in less than a month.

A solid hire can still be made – a Power 5 job with Big Ten resources always will attract top-tier coaches and plenty of interest. There must be urgency, however, for whoever takes over to establish their culture in a few short weeks to begin preparing for 2020.

MSU can't hire another Muddy Waters. It can't hire another John L. Smith. But it also doesn't have much time to make something happen.

MOUND

From page B1

motion-capture cameras at the lab, it provides a powerful new tool for understanding the mechanics of a pitch.

"Pairing these things together is going to give us the most complete understanding of what a pitcher goes through physically," said Matthew Solomito, a managing research engineer at the lab. "We can now measure pitcher efficiency and see what might make a pitcher at greater risk of injury. And if they are at greater risk of injury, what can we do to make them better?"

In Delease's case, the mound showed something was off with the torque generated around his plant leg. That was affecting his release.

"When you understand movement, the ground whispers to you," said Randy Sullivan, who runs the Florida Baseball Ranch, which trains elite pitchers and was working with the lab's researchers. "If you understand the anatomy, the ground will tell you what the muscles are doing and with this information, we no longer have to guess."

Part of beta testing the mound is figuring out which variables in the data are most important in figuring out how to adjust a pitcher's form issues, said Kyle Barker, who invented the mound at Newtforce.

The Baseball Ranch gathered 500 data sets from pitchers. Another 20 came to the Connecticut lab, where their force measurements were paired with the motion imaging for a more complete picture.

The Minnesota Twins have leased a smart mound for spring training this year. There are others at Vanderbilt, Arkansas and at the Florida Baseball Ranch.

"The more data we get, the more we can do with it," said Barker. "We should be able to see some trends in terms of what we're seeing in the force data and the bio-data and perhaps come up with some predictors for things like durability."

Leasing the mound costs between $30,000 and $50,000 a year for fees and setup, depending on the length of the lease and what type of institution wants to use it, Barker said.

Barker believes that within five years, most major college programs and major league teams will be using the technology for coaching, injury prevention and even scouting prospects.

"You can compare one pitcher to another," Barker said. "It will show you if there is a form flaw that might make someone a better risk than another prospect."

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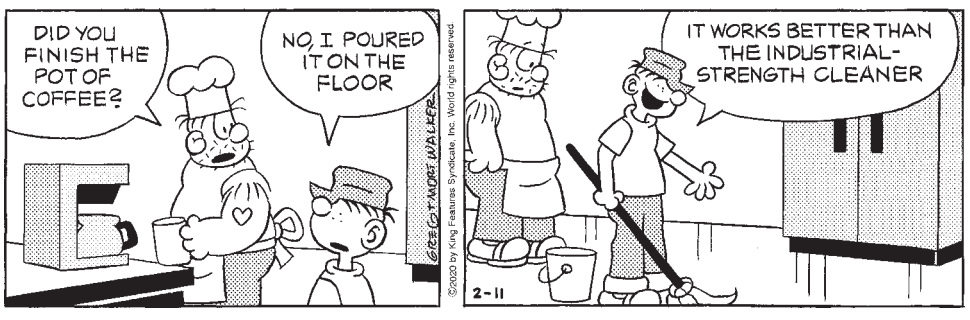
Specializing in used engines

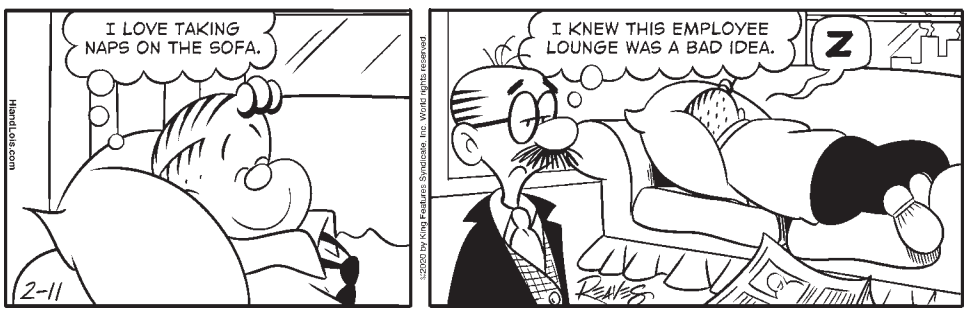
BEETLE BAILEY


DID YOU FINISH THE POT OF COFFEE?
NO, I POURED IT ON THE FLOOR
GREG T MORT WALKER
©2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
IT WORKS BETTER THAN THE INDUSTRIAL-STRENGTH CLEANER
2-11

BLONDIE

DO YOU STILL HAVE RECESS AT SCHOOL, ELMO?
YEAH, BUT WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FUN BECAUSE OF LIABILITY
© 2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved
SOFT RUBBERIZED PAVEMENT, MULCH UNDER THE SLIDE AND NO MORE SCARY SEESAWS.
2-11
WE CAN'T EVEN FLY OUR DRONES IN THE CLASSROOM ANYMORE!
www.Blondie.com

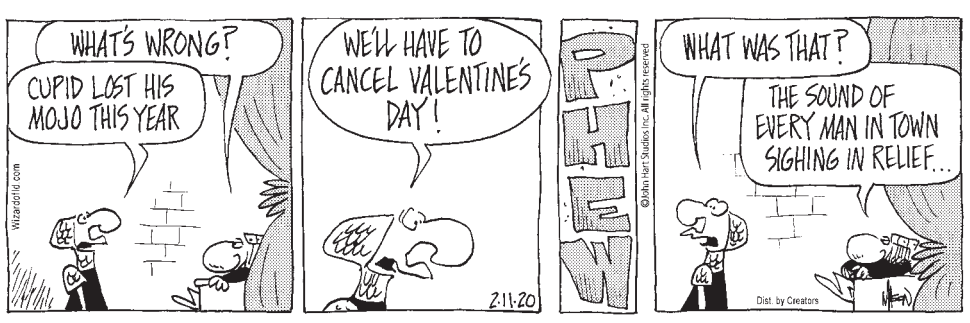
HI & LOIS


I LOVE TAKING NAPS ON THE SOFA.
2-11
HiandLois.com
©2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
I KNEW THIS EMPLOYEE LOUNGE WAS A BAD IDEA.
Z
RECK

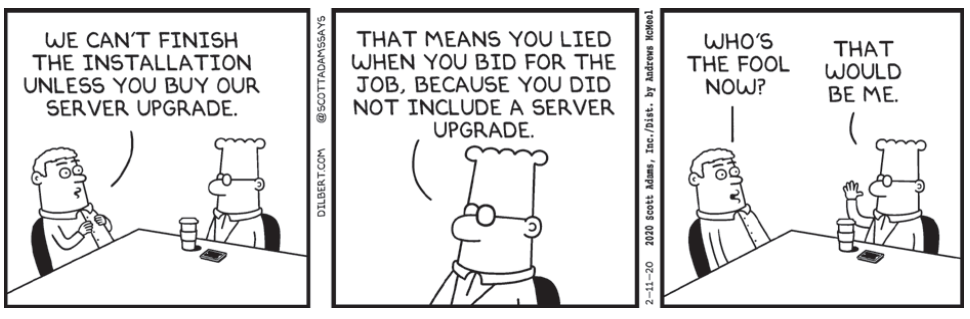
BC

VALENTINE'S DAY IS COMING!
WHICH ONE IS THAT?
THE DAY WHEN THE FLYING BABY SHOOTS ARROWS AT THAT GROUNDHOG UNTIL HE SEES HIS SHADOW.
JohnHartStudios.com
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved
...I THINK?
WE REALLY SHOULD WORK ON A CALENDAR.
2.11.20
Dist. by Creators

WIZARD OF ID


WHAT'S WRONG?
CUPID LOST HIS MOJO THIS YEAR
Wizardofid.com
WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL VALENTINE'S DAY!
2.11.20
PHEW
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved
WHAT WAS THAT?
THE SOUND OF EVERY MAN IN TOWN SIGHING IN RELIEF...
Dist. by Creators

DILBERT


WE CAN'T FINISH THE INSTALLATION UNLESS YOU BUY OUR SERVER UPGRADE.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
THAT MEANS YOU LIED WHEN YOU BID FOR THE JOB, BECAUSE YOU DID NOT INCLUDE A SERVER UPGRADE.
2-11-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
WHO'S THE FOOL NOW?
THAT WOULD BE ME.

GARFIELD

WHAT'S NEW?
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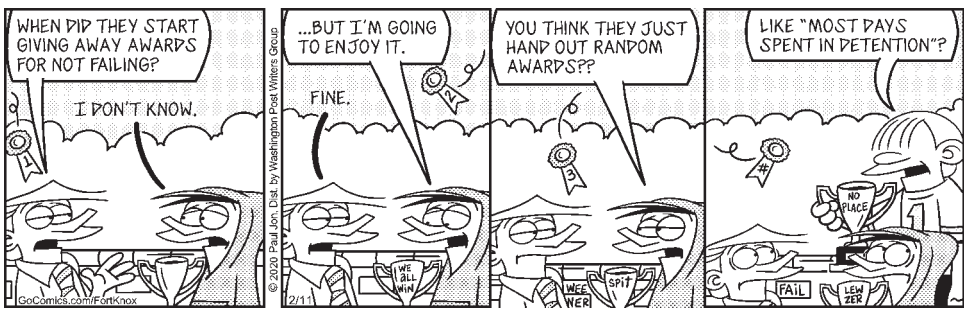
SERIOUSLY?
SORRY. I FORGOT WHO I WAS TALKING TO
WANT TO HEAR WHAT'S OLD?
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 2-11

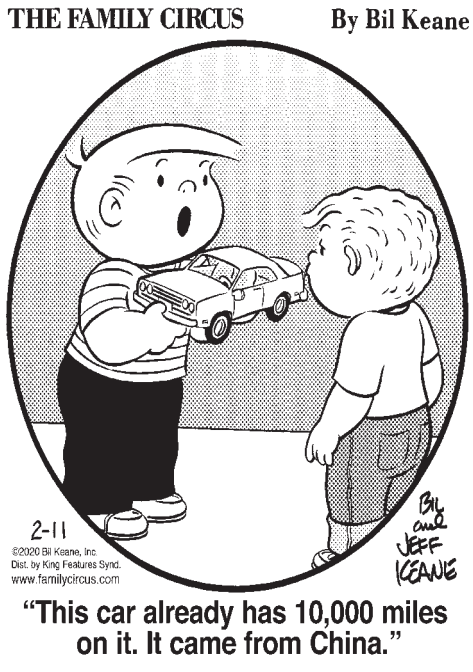
FORT KNOX


WHEN DID THEY START GIVING AWAY AWARDS FOR NOT FAILING?
I DON'T KNOW.
GoComics.com/FortKnox
...BUT I'M GOING TO ENJOY IT.
FINE.
© 2020 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group
2/11
YOU THINK THEY JUST HAND OUT RANDOM AWARDS??
LIKE "MOST DAYS SPENT IN DETENTION"?
NO PLACE
FAIL

PICKLES

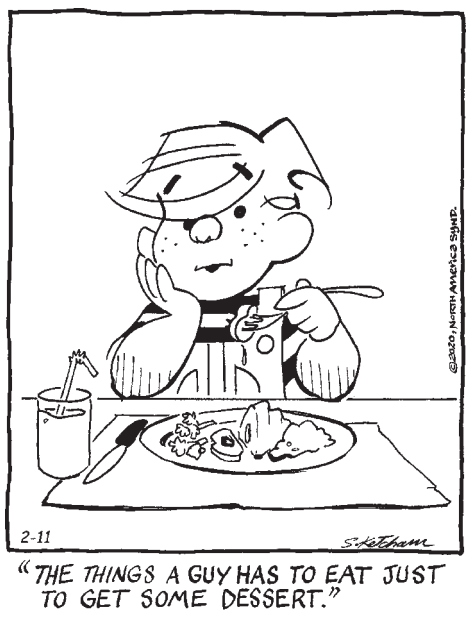
GRAMMA, GUESS WHAT GRAMPA'S FAVORITE COLOR IS.
BLUE.
NO, IT'S ICE CREAM!
THAT'S JUST SILLY. ICE CREAM ISN'T A COLOR. TELL GRAMPA HE'S FULL OF BALONEY.
2/11
HE TOLD ME YOUR FAVORITE COLOR IS BALONEY.

FAMILY CIRCUS



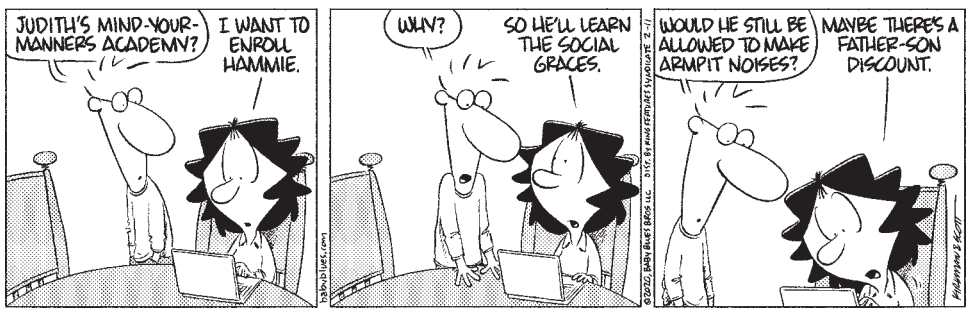
"This car already has 10,000 miles on it. It came from China."

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THE THINGS A GUY HAS TO EAT JUST TO GET SOME DESSERT."

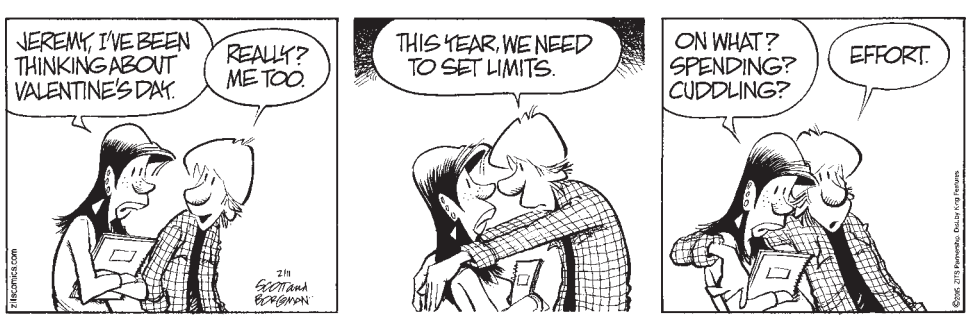
BABY BLUES


JUDITH'S MIND-YOUR-MANNERS ACADEMY?
I WANT TO ENROLL HAMMIE.
WHY?
SO HE'LL LEARN THE SOCIAL GRACES.
WOULD HE STILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE ARMPIT NOISES?
MAYBE THERE'S A FATHER-SON DISCOUNT.

CURTIS

SMILE, DAD!
NO.
I FEEL LIKE A USELESS OLD MAN OUT OF COMMISSION BY A USELESS OLD MAN'S BACK!
2-11
"SEND MY DAD SOME LOVE" -ANND POST!
LOOK AT ALL THE REPLIES ALREADY
NOW I'M SMILING

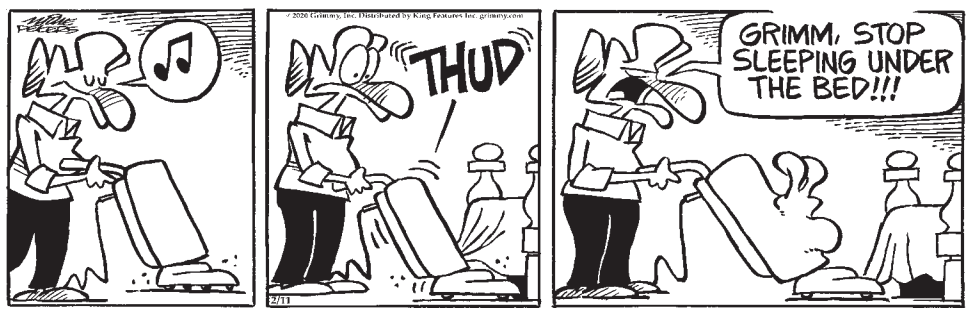
ZITS



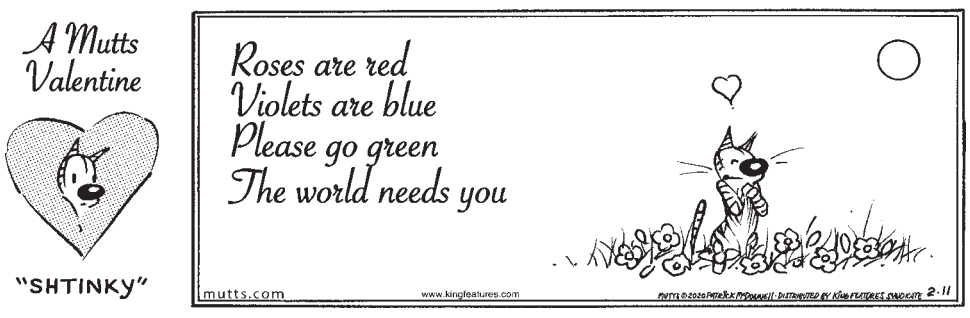
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

I'M GOING TO SPLIT!
NO! DON'T LEAVE YET!
©2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
AWWW, YOU'LL MISS ME! I'M TOUCHED!
2-11
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD BUY THE NEXT ROUND!
BROOME

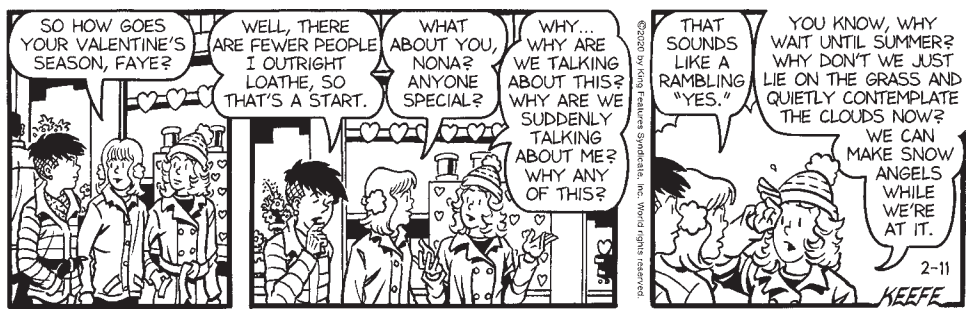
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH


SO HOW GOES YOUR VALENTINE'S SEASON, FAYE?
WELL, THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE I OUTRIGHT LOATHE, SO THAT'S A START.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NONA? ANYONE SPECIAL?
WHY... WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THIS? WHY ARE WE SUDDENLY TALKING ABOUT ME? WHY ANY OF THIS?
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THAT SOUNDS LIKE A RAMBLING "YES."
YOU KNOW, WHY WAIT UNTIL SUMMER? WHY DON'T WE JUST LIE ON THE GRASS AND QUIETLY CONTEMPLATE THE CLOUDS NOW? WE CAN MAKE SNOW ANGELS WHILE WE'RE AT IT.
2-11
KEEFE

PRIME TIME TV

TUESDAY EVENING FEB. 11

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	The Conners (N)	Bless This M.	mixed-ish (N)	black-ish (N)	For Life Aaron becomes a lawyer.	
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	NCIS Sloane has a secret admirer. (N)		FBI Armor-piercing rifles are stolen. (N)		FBI: Most Wanted "Invisible" (N) CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	Ellen's Game of Games (N) CC		This Is Us Kate finds strength. (N)		:01 New Amsterdam "In the Graveyard"	
FOX 17 22 28 32	Modern Family	The Resident "Free Fall" CC (DVS)		Gordon Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Steves' Europe	Finding Your Roots With Henry		American Experience "The Fight"		Frontline "Battle for Hong Kong" (N)	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	The Flash "Love Is a Battlefield" (N) CC		DC's Legends of Tomorrow (N) CC		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud (N)	Chicago P.D. "Disco Bob" CC		Chicago P.D. "New Normal"		Chicago P.D. "Endings" CC (DVS)	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	The Flash "Love Is a Battlefield" (N) CC		DC's Legends of Tomorrow (N) CC		2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Under Pressure"		Highway to Heaven "We Have Forever"		The List (N) CC	Celebrity Page (N)
WGN 9	News	black-ish	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48 "A Fighting Chance"		The First 48: Tracking a Killer (N) CC		:02 The First 48: Tracking a Killer (N)	
AMC	★★ The Outsiders	Home Alone ('90) Macaulay Culkin. A left-behind boy battles two burglars in the house. CC					Home Alone 2
Animal	Tree	Treehouse Masters: Branched Out (N)				Treehouse Masters	
BET	6:30 ★★ White Chicks			★★★ Ray ('04) Jamie Foxx. CC			
Big Ten	College Basketball		College Basketball Nebraska at Maryland.				Postgame
Bravo	Vanderpump Rul	Vanderpump Rules (N) CC		Vanderpump Rules (N) CC		Summer House The housemates return.	
Cartoon	Gumball	Home	Burgers	Burgers	Rick	American	American
Cinemax	Rescue Dawn	★★ Leprechaun ('93, Horror) Warwick Davis. CC			:35 ★★ Halloween ('18, Horror) Jamie Lee Curtis. CC		
CMT	Last Man	★★ Ace Ventura: Pet Detective ('94)				Ace Ventura	
CNBC	Shark	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit (N) CC	
CNN	5:00 America's Choice 2020: New Hampshire Primary (N) (L) CC						
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
Discovery	:00 Moonshiners	Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts (N) CC		Moonshiners (N) CC		:01 Guardians of the Glades "Snake Bait"	
Disney	Bunk'd	Zombies ('18) CC			Gabby	Coop	Sydney
DIY	Rehab	Building Off the Grid		Building Off the Grid		Building Off the Grid	
E!	Botched CC		Botched CC		Botched CC		Botched
ESPN	College Basketball			College Basketball			
ESPN2	College Basketball			College Basketball Notre Dame at Virginia.			
ESPNC	Basket	College Football From Oct. 22, 2011.				College Football	
Food	Chopped	Chopped CC		Chopped (N) CC		Chopped (N) CC	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	NHL Hockey: Red Wings at Sabres				Red Wings Live (N)		Wingspan
Freefrm	6:00 Sweet Home Alabama ('02)	★★ The Other Woman ('14, Romance-Comedy) Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann. (P). CC					
FX	American Made	★★ Murder on the Orient Express ('17, Mystery) Kenneth Branagh, Johnny Depp. CC					Orient Express
Golf	Golf	Golf's Greatest Rounds (N)					Central
Hallmark	Love in Design	My Secret Valentine ('18, Comedy) Lacey Chabert, Andrew Walker. CC				Walking the Dog ('17) CC	
HBO	6:50 ★★★ Long Shot ('19) Seth Rogen. CC			Ali & Cavett: The Tale of the Tapes ('18) (P). CC			:40 The Outsider
History	Oak Is	Digging Deeper		Curse-Island		Project Blue Book	
HGTV	Fixer	Love It or List It		Unsella	Unsella	Rehab	Rehab
Learning	Fabulous	Fat Fabulous		I Am Jazz (N)		Sister Wives	
Lifetime	The Ugly Truth ('09)	★★ 50 First Dates ('04) Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore, Rob Schneider. CC				:03 ★ Big Daddy ('99) CC	
MSNBC	6:00 New Hampshire Primary: Decision 2020 (N) CC						
MTV	Catfish	Siesta Key (N) CC		Teen Mom: Young		Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	NBA Basketball: Bulls at Wizards				Postgame	NHL Hockey	
NFL	NFL Total	NFL Football Teams TBA. CC					
Nick	:00 ★★ Space Jam ('96)			The Crystal Maze		Friends	Friends
NGEO	Life Be	Ice Breakers		Life Below Zero "The New World" (N)			
Oxygen	:00 Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D. "Emotional Proximity"		Chicago P.D. "Remember the Devil"		Chicago P.D. "Little Bit of Light"	
Parmt	★★★ Beverly Hills Cop ('84) Eddie Murphy.					Ink Master (N) CC	
Showtime	:15 ★★ Phantom ('13) Ed Harris, David Duchovny. CC			Homeland Carrie recovers in Germany.		★★ On the Basis of Sex ('18)	
Starz	6:48 ★★★ Spider-Man: Far From Home ('19) CC			Power Ghost is announced as Lt. Governor. CC			Walking Tall ('04)
STZENC	Double Jeopardy	Outlander "Savages" CC		8:57 Outlander "Blood of My Blood"		9:59 Outlander CC	
SyFy	:00 ★★ The Transporter ('02, Action) Jason Statham. CC			★★ Underworld: Blood Wars ('16, Fantasy) Kate Beckinsale, Theo James. CC			
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Miracle Workers
TCM	Young Lions	★★★ Peyton Place ('57, Drama) Lana Turner, Hope Lange. Grace Metalious' steamy tale of life in a New England town. CC					
TMC	Chokehold ('18)	★★★ Frank Miller's Sin City ('05, Action) Jessica Alba, Devon Aoki. CC				:05 ★★ The Dark Tower ('17)	
TNT	NBA Basketball: Clippers at 76ers				NBA Basketball		
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Adventures "Ghosts of Anarchy" (N)				Portals to Hell (N)	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Everybody Raymond		Raymond	King	King
USA	6:10 ★★★ Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2			The Biggest Loser (N) CC (DVS)		Miz & Mrs (N)	:32 Miz & Mrs
VH1	Hip Hop	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out
WGN-A	Cops CC	Cops CC	Cops CC	Cops CC	Cops CC	Cops CC	Cops CC

Brother's hair-trigger temper makes get-togethers tense

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, my brother "Leon" had a nervous breakdown at work due to a co-worker constantly harassing him. He's currently under the care of a therapist through his workplace and has not worked for a year.

Recently, at a family get-together, I asked him a question about his current situation. He became angry and very emotional. He accused me of "not listening" and went through the process of re-describing in detail how the co-worker harassed him. He then became confrontational, as if I were on trial. His adult daughter kept her head down, until she finally told her father that I only asked him the question because I loved him and was concerned for him. My niece and her sister both tried to de-escalate the situation, but were unsuccessful.

After he was done with his tirade, he proceeded to harass and belittle ME! At that point, I got up and told my husband privately that I wanted to leave, which we did. This isn't the first time my brother has behaved this way at a family get-together. He acted out toward family members long before the incident at his workplace.

I enjoy being with my family, but Leon has made it unpleasant for me, and I don't like how I must walk on eggshells around him to prevent a confrontation. How do I handle this in the future and still have fun with my family? – Line Of Fire In Ohio

DEAR LINE OF FIRE: It appears your brother is not progressing well with his therapy, which is sad not only for him but also anyone who has to interact with him. Because you are no longer willing to tolerate his abuse, a logical answer would be to see your relatives in situations where he isn't included. Consider doing some entertaining on your own, because in that way, you can control the guest list.

DEAR ABBY: I was adopted at birth. About 30 years ago, I found my birth mother, but our relationship is intermittent and distant. She only recently gave me a name of my biological father. Through DNA testing I have discovered that the name she gave me was incorrect and who he actually was. The confirmation is rock solid with half-sisters and several first cousins located.

My birth mother is 90 now. Should I tell her what I have found out or let it go? All of the direct players in this, except her, have passed on. – Truth-Teller In Texas

DEAR TRUTH-TELLER: How mentally "with it" is your 90-year-old mother? If she's in the early stages of dementia, what have you to gain by telling her? If she's sharp as a tack, one has to wonder why she would try to obscure your biofather's identity. Was she attempting to protect herself, him or you? Or was she unsure of his identity because she had been raped or was seeing more than one man? These are questions I can't answer for you.

It shouldn't create a bombshell if you approach the subject by telling her you have uncovered some information about your biological relatives. If she is interested, tell her everything. If not, let it be.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Feeling lost over ex getting married

Carolyn Hax

Adapted from a recent online discussion.

DEAR CAROLYN: My ex is getting married this weekend. While I no longer have feelings for him, I've been in a funk for several days and I'm dreading the onslaught of social-media posts from mutual friends who will be at the wedding. Since I am truly over him, I'm not sure what this is about – feeling like I have "lost" somehow? Ew. Any suggestions for getting through the next few days? – **Ex**

"Lost"? Ew.

Sometimes transitions just suck, even when your part of the transition is only awareness of someone else's transition.

Stay off social media – "no self-torture," should top all our lists of coping tactics; do something that you reliably feel good about; and be glad it's only a couple of days.

RE: WEDDING: My ex just got remarried about two weeks ago, and I found out when a girlfriend texted me she'd just come from the wedding. While I've been divorced/single for nearly 10 years, it hit me like a ton of bricks.

I'm still single but living the life I wanted, yet I, too, felt like a loser. A best girlfriend called me (not the one who went to the wedding) after I texted her my feelings, and reminded me of all the reasons he was a lousy husband. That helped.

But when I saw the wedding on social media – and I was terrified to look – I was cured. I could see he'd grown into exactly the type of man I was afraid he would and living his life exactly the way I was afraid we would if I'd stayed. I immediately saw I was having a much more fabulous life than he could ever want for me, and it took a huge weight off my shoulders. – **"Survivor," lol**

DEAR CAROLYN: I am a young woman who has been fortunate and successful in her career. My yearly compensation is over triple what my husband makes. It is not my dream job, but it is challenging, stimulating, and rewarding for me. It is also grueling, nonstop work, and would be difficult to manage with a family. (I don't have kids yet).

Any advice for thinking about and planning for a future with a family, while also being an ambitious professional, while also being someone who can see a day where she will want a break? – **Confused Young Professional**

Maybe it's an oversimplification, but the best advice I have for you is to save money like you'll never earn a cent again.

Well, maybe not quite. Set aside a little for enjoying the spoils of your youth, wealth and autonomy.

Then stash away every cent after that.

You are likely to encounter tough choices in your future and thinking about them now can't hurt, but maybe the single factor that gives you the most power over your options – and the one most within your control right now – is money. (Health is even more powerful than money, by the way, but less within our control.)

Save for future child care, save for future time off, save for a transition to a less lucrative career, save so your spouse can be home with the kids, save so you can.

Just don't save so much that you mess up your someday-kids. Kidding-not kidding.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

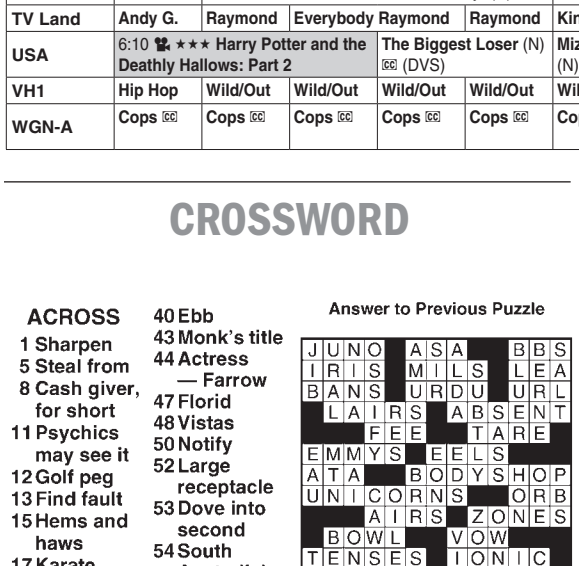
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Sharpen
5 Steal from
8 Cash giver, for short
11 Psychics may see it
12 Golf peg
13 Find fault
15 Hems and haws
17 Karate studio
18 Aurora, to Socrates
19 Wealthy industrialist
21 Acquire knowledge
24 Pine cousin
25 Meddle
26 Note-taker's need
27 Reluctant
30 Take hastily
32 Boat implement
33 Compass point
37 Mme. Gluck of opera
38 Anger
39 2.2 pounds
40 Ebb
43 Monk's title
44 Actress — Farrow
47 Florid
48 Vistas
50 Notify
52 Large receptacle
53 Dove into second
54 South Australia's capital
59 Garr of "Tootsie"
60 Not Dem. or Rep.
61 Roulette color
62 Bo Derek movie
63 Refrain syllables
64 Boundaries

DOWN
1 Used to be
2 Lean-to
3 Hurler's stat
4 Less exciting
5 Hwys.
6 Above, in verse
7 Roused to action
8 "Back in Black" group
9 Crowd in
10 Army officer
14 Gaunt
16 Actress — Freeman
20 Mo. multiples
21 Org. for Annika Sorenstam
22 Titled man
23 Father of Cain
24 Suspected
28 Phone message system
29 Cartoon shriek
31 Exclude
34 Nurse's helper
35 Sluggish
36 Many turkeys
41 Screw things up
42 Like Mr. Hyde
44 Light rain
45 Fjord
46 In flames
49 Shallow
51 Norse Zeus
52 Sleepers' spots
55 Double helix
56 Cl- or Ca++
57 Carried out
58 Um cousins

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	U	N	O		A	S	A			B	B	S
I	R	I	S		M	I	L	S		L	E	A
B	A	N	S		U	R	D	U		U	R	L
	L	A	I	R	S		A	B	S	E	N	T
			F	E	E			T	A	R	E	
E	M	M	Y	S		E	E	L	S			
A	T	A			B	O	D	Y	S	H	O	P
U	N	I	C	O	R	N	S			O	R	B
			A	I	R	S		Z	O	N	E	S
	B	O	W	L			V	O	W			
T	E	N	S	E	S		I	O	N	I	C	
E	L	I		R	E	F	S		E	R	O	S
R	I	O		S	P	I	T		R	O	L	E
M	E	N			T	E	A		S	N	O	W



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MLUPC

RAHDO

ALMYIN

VYAICT

Ride into the future with me!
I'm in!
Driverless cars are the future! This is a great investment for us.
I'm in!
IT WAS EASY RAISING FUNDS FOR HIS BUSINESS BECAUSE INVESTORS WANTED TO ---

Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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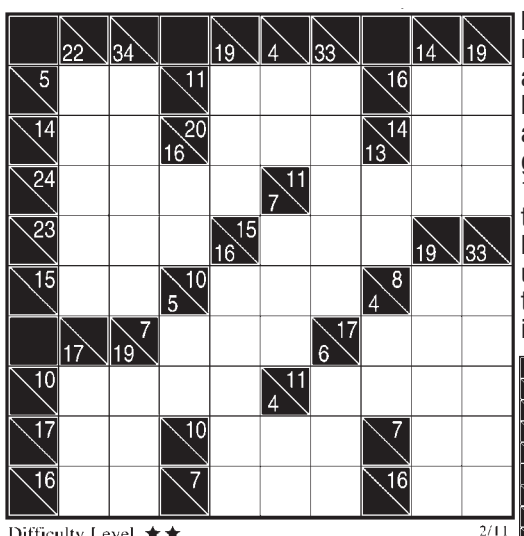
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

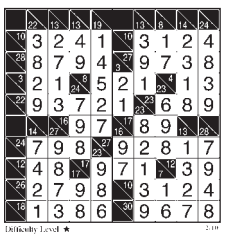
Yesterday's Jumbles: SLYLY TWEAK SMELLY BISHOP
Answer: When Henry Ford wanted to talk to his workers, he'd have them — ASSEMBLE

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★ 2/11

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Dr. Seuss claimed, "The main problem with writing in verse is, if your fourth line doesn't come out right, you've got to throw four lines away and figure out a whole new way to attack the problem. So the mortality rate is terrific."

In an uncontested bidding sequence, if the fourth bid is in the fourth suit to be named, it usually helps responder to solve his strain problem. Fourth-suit game-forcing announces that responder has an opening bid and is, usually, seeking a stopper in that fourth suit from partner.

Here South, with two solid heart stoppers, bids two no-trump, and North raises to game. After West leads the heart queen, what should declarer do?

South starts with seven top tricks: one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. The other two tricks might come from either minor.

At first glance, it looks right to lose a diamond trick immediately. Then, when the suit divides 3-2, as it will 67.8 percent of the time according to the mathematicians, declarer will romp home with an overtrick. Instead, playing on clubs requires a 3-3 split, which is much less likely at 35.53 percent.

Here, though, the diamonds are not 3-2 and the clubs are 3-3 – how unlucky can South be?

If dummy did not have the spade ace, ducking a diamond would be right. But with that dummy entry, declarer can test both suits. He should start by cashing the top diamonds. If they are 3-2, he continues with a third round. But when they are 4-1, South switches to clubs. Overall, he has a 79.2 percent chance of success.

North 02-11-20
♠ A 7 4
♥ 6 3
♦ A K 7 6 3 2
♣ J 5

West
♠ K J 3 2
♥ Q J 10 9 8
♦ 4
♣ 8 6 3

East
♠ Q 10
♥ 7 5 4 2
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ Q 10 9

South
♠ 9 8 6 5
♥ A K
♦ 8 5
♣ A K 7 4 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ Q

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

6					5	4	9	
		4	8	9	1			
1	7	9	4		6		8	
		7		6	9	5	2	
	1			3			4	
	6	3	5	8		7		
	3		6		8	9	5	2
			9	1	7	6		
	9	6	2					4

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

6	5	1	9	4	7	8	2	3
7	3	4	8	6	2	9	1	5
8	2	9	3	1	5	4	7	6
3	4	2	5	7	9	1	6	8
1	7	5	6	2	8	3	4	9
9	6	8	1	3	4	7	5	2
5	1	7	2	9	3	6	8	4
2	9	6	4	8	1	5	3	7
4	8	3	7	5	6	2	9	1

Stephen Groves / AP

Protesters march outside the South Dakota Capitol in Pierre on Monday, as LGBT advocates protested a bill that would ban gender conformation medical treatments for children under 16.

Ban on treatments for transgender kids fails in South Dakota

By STEPHEN GROVES
Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. — Legislation aimed at stopping South Dakota physicians from providing puberty blockers and gender confirmation surgery to transgender children under 16 failed to get enough support Monday in a Senate committee.

A Republican-dominated Senate committee voted 5-2 to kill the proposal, likely ensuring the issue won't be considered by the Legislature again this year.

Proponents already had amended the bill to get rid of criminal charges for doctors who provide gender confirmation treatments, including puberty blockers, hormone therapy and surgery. But it would have allowed children to sue if they later regretted the treatments.

Conservative lawmakers in nearly a dozen other states, including South Carolina, Florida, Missouri, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky and New Hampshire, are pushing similar proposals. The measure had gained the most traction in South Dakota, where the House recently passed it.

But some Republican senators and GOP Gov. Kristi Noem had expressed concerns and questioned whether the Legislature should be delving into the issue.

LGBT advocates and Democrats argued that the proposal would have stopped children with gender dysphoria from receiving medically necessary health care that improves their mental health. They demonstrated outside the Capitol before Monday's Senate Health and Human Services Committee meeting.

Quinncy Parke, a 17-year-old transgender teenager, testified before the committee and had one word to describe the feeling of seeing the bill die: "ecstatic."

"It's gone," Parke said. "I don't have to worry about it until next year."

Proponents of the bill maintained that the treatments are harmful.

Rep. Fred Deutsch, a Florence Republican who introduced the bill, said the testimony and debate had raised awareness about the potential side effects and highlighted the doubts of some doctors about the long-term mental health benefits of such treatments.

Parke said that Deutsch crafted the bill to "fuel confusion" about gender confirmation treatments.

Leading medical authorities, including the Endocrine Society and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, do not recommend gender confirmation surgeries for children. For youths experiencing puberty and older adolescents, the Endocrine Society recommends that a team composed of expert medical and mental health professionals manages treatment, which can include puberty-blocking drugs or hormone therapy.

Keith Hansen, an endocrinologist with Sanford Health in South Dakota, said the health care network treated fewer than 20 minors with gender dysphoria in the state last year. He said children who receive gender confirmation treatments receive psychiatric counseling before and during the treatments.

The South Dakota State Medical Association opposed the bill, arguing it discriminated against transgender people and interfered with physicians' ability to administer necessary medical treatment.

Conservative lawmakers said they were reluctant to interfere in parental rights.

"With all due respect, my child's health care is not your decision to make," Kim Parke, the mother of Quinncy, told the committee.

Deutsch said he would not be bringing the issue again this year, but he shared the bill and notes with lawmakers in other states, where similar legislation is being considered.

He said the governor had worked "behind the scenes" to oppose the bill.

"That's simply not accurate," said Kristin Wileman, Noem's spokeswoman, insisting that the governor never took a formal position on the bill.

In 2016, Deutsch brought a "bathroom bill" that would have forced transgender students to use restrooms labeled for their birth gender. It cleared the House and Senate before former Gov. Dennis Daugaard vetoed it.

Legislation aimed at restricting LGBT people has often found friendly ground in South Dakota. Republicans hold every statewide office and a super-majority in the Legislature.

Supporters from both sides crowded into the room where the committee met until they overflowed into the hallways. Lawmakers said they have heard more from constituents on this issue than any other this legislative session. Several legislators said most of the communication was in favor of the ban.

Dozens of advocates protested outside the Capitol on Monday, riding horses on the grounds, waving rainbow flags, and holding signs to support transgender people. They said that legislation aimed at LGBT people is a recurring issue in the state.

LGBT advocates said the bill has already caused damage. Lauren Stanley, an Episcopalian minister who works with youth from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, said she has already heard from LGBT youth who felt targeted by the legislation, expressing anxiety and desires to hurt themselves.

But Quinncy Parke is ready if a similar bill is brought again. "I've already stuck my neck out – why not do it again?" Parke said.

Guilty plea to federal charges in black church burnings

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — The aspiring 'black metal' musician who was arrested in a series of fires set at African American churches in Louisiana last spring pleaded guilty Monday to four federal criminal counts.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said in a news release that Holden Matthews pleaded guilty to three counts of intentional damage to religious property, a federal hate crime. He also pleaded to one count of using fire to commit a felony. He entered the pleas in federal court in Lafayette. Sentencing is set for May 22.

MATTHEWS

Investigators said Matthews had shown interest in "black metal," an extreme sub-genre of heavy metal music.

"Matthews admitted to setting the fires because of the religious character of these buildings, in an effort to raise his profile as a Black Metal' musician by copying similar crimes committed in Norway in the 1990s," the U.S. Attorney's statement said.

His self-promotion included taking pictures and videos of two of the burning churches and posting them to Facebook, the release said.

Matthews faces a minimum 10-year prison sentence, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. The charges carry a maximum total sentence of 70 years – 20 for each of the hate crimes and 10 for the use of fire in a felony.

Matthews, 21 at the time of his arrest last year, is white and the destruction of the three historic black churches in St. Landry Parish evoked memories of civil rights-era terrorism. But race is not mentioned as a factor in the charges.

The indictment said the fires were set "because of the religious character" of the properties.

Three churches were burned in a span of 10 days, beginning in late March 2019, in an area roughly 140 miles west of New Orleans in St. Landry Parish. Matthews' father is a parish sheriff's deputy.

The first fire was at the St. Mary Baptist Church in Port Barre. Days later, the Greater Union Baptist Church and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Opelousas were burned. Each was more than 100 years old, with mostly black congregations.

The churches were empty at the time of the fires, and no one was injured.

Matthews also faces state charges in connection with the fires. Don Richard, an assistant district attorney in St. Landry, told The Associated Press he hoped to begin resolving the state case after the federal plea but declined to discuss details.

The state charges include two counts of simple arson of a religious building and a count of aggravated arson of a religious building.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Now available in the U.S. without a prescription!

Utah Grandma Loses 34 Pounds After Failing 18 Times Before

New breakthrough is ending "battle of the bulge" for Americans who have tried everything else. Doctors are impressed how safe and effective it is.

By Michael Plane
National Health Press

Nancy Holm of Salt Lake City, Utah had tried 18 different diets and diet products without success.

"I was so frustrated. I was about to give up and not even try anymore. But I really wanted to feel better, look better, and have more energy for my 4 grandchildren who are the joy of my life" she said with a proud smile.

Nancy's lucky break came one afternoon while watching TV. A news special about weight loss was on, and the expert being interviewed on PBS-TV was Dr. Eric Wood, who said: "98% of diets and diet products fail. The reason for this is because they do not address a vital underlying root cause of weight gain."

Dr. Wood continued, "If you read the latest medical studies, it is clear most people will never lose weight and keep it off until they fix how their blood sugar works. This is because blood sugar is the key to weight loss in so many ways."

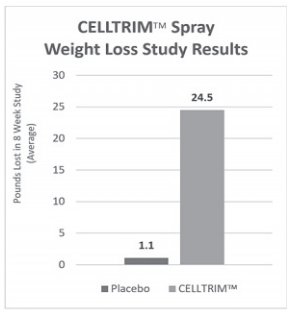
Nancy's weight loss results were incredible after she did this. "I lost 34 pounds without a strict diet or exercise. This was faster and easier than I'd ever lost weight before, and I've kept the weight off for over a year now with no problem", she beamed

The new weight loss spray that does this and safely melts off body fat quickly is now available in the United States without a prescription. It is sold under the brand name CELLTRIM. It contains an active ingredient that has been shown in a double-blind test to be incredibly effective for weight loss.

STUDY: AVERAGE PERSON LOST 24.5 POUNDS IN 8 WEEKS - WITH NO DIET OR EXERCISE

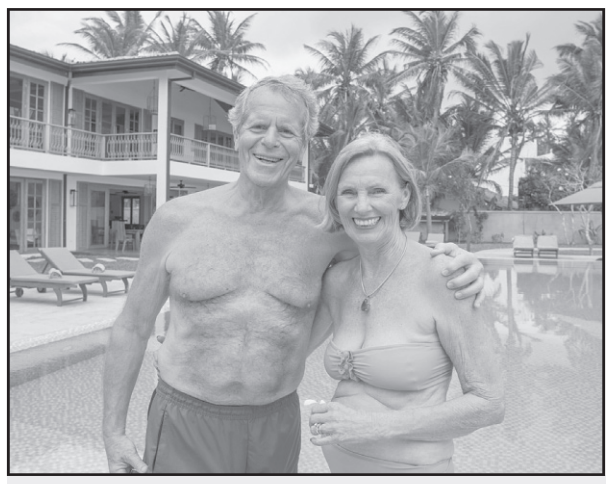
Scientists in Asia have discovered a natural compound that has been shown in a real-life test to enhance blood sugar regulation and trigger phenomenal weight loss.

Dr. Decker Weiss, M.D. said, "This large test showed 24.5 pounds of weight loss was achieved on average in only 8 weeks with NO change in diet or exercise. My patients have had remarkable success with this spray also. It is a new, different and exciting breakthrough for people who are overweight."



No diet or exercise was changed in people in this clinical test. Data summarized by private organization. Functional Foods in Health and Disease 13; 3(11):416-427.

The results seem hard to believe, yet these findings are supported by many everyday people like Winston Harrison of Randolph, Wisconsin:



Popular Spray: U.S. doctors are now recommending new weight loss spray because it causes fast and safe weight loss - with no need for excessive diet or exercise.

"I was very skeptical when I first read an article about CELLTRIM, but my doctor verified it for me, so I gave it a try. I expected to be disappointed again because I am what they call a "hard loser", meaning it is very hard for me to lose any weight. But this time it was different and so far I have lost 32 pounds and I feel like I am living in a dream come true."

HOW THE SPRAY CAUSES WEIGHT LOSS

You press down the button to spray the mist into your mouth before each meal. It has a light pleasant mint taste. That's all you have to do.

The main nutrient in CELLTRIM Spray has been awarded U.S. Patent #8,361,523. It contains polyphenols that help enhance insulin sensitivity. This allows more blood sugar to be used for energy and less converted to fat. This is how you become slimmer and trimmer.

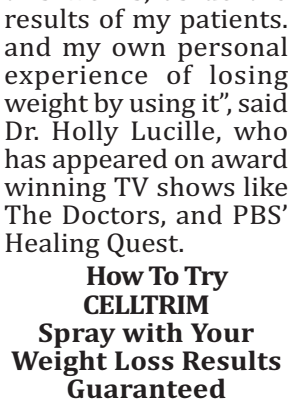
Currently, the opposite is happening in your body. In people who are overweight, insulin function decreases, leading cells to become "resistant" to the action of insulin. The result: your insulin levels stay elevated for longer – so much of the extra blood sugar is converted into fat and stored in your fat cells, resulting in weight gain.

CELLTRIM Spray also causes weight loss by its relationship to the hormone leptin and C reactive protein. Leptin is a master hormone produced by fat cells that regulate satiety and appetite control— it sends signals to the brain and lets it know that your stomach feels "full." C reactive protein intercepts the leptin before it can make it to the brain, and therefore, the sensation of feeling hungry is not felt as much.

CELLTRIM spray uses the breakthrough NutraMist Delivery System. The spray is INSTANTLY ABSORBED into your body. The tiny molecules bypass the digestive tract and enter your bloodstream ... compare this to a supplement pill, where much of an ingredient is NOT absorbed due to the digestive process.

WHAT DOCTORS ARE SAYING

"In all my years as a doctor, CELLTRIM Spray is the most different and exciting breakthrough in weight loss that I have seen for people who want to lose weight and keep it off without a crazy diet or exercise routine", said Dr. Eric Wood.



"All my patients who have used CELLTRIM Spray have reported a significant weight loss with no side effects, and all say it is much better than any other product they have ever tried", reports Dr. Decker Weiss, M.D.

"CELLTRIM is the right choice for individuals who are overweight. The test results show this works, as do the results of my patients. and my own personal experience of losing weight by using it", said Dr. Holly Lucille, who has appeared on award winning TV shows like The Doctors, and PBS' Healing Quest.

How To Try CELLTRIM Spray with Your Weight Loss Results Guaranteed

CELLTRIM Spray is GUARANTEED to work great for you – or you PAY NOTHING with a 90-day unconditional money-back guarantee. It is NOT sold in stores or online. No prescription or doctor visit is required.

This is the official release of CELLTRIM Spray in the state. A Regional Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try CELLTRIM Spray.

Starting at 7:00 am today, the order hotline will be open for only 48-hours for this special offer.

All you have to do is CALL NOW TOLL-FREE 1-888-413-5910 and provide the operator with the special discount approval code: CELL143.

Important: Due to CELLTRIM Spray's popularity and recent media exposure on ABC, CBS, and FOX NEWS, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not get through immediately, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 48-hour special discount offer must pay more for CELLTRIM Spray.

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. Results based upon averages. Models are used in all photos to protect privacy

Israeli opposition co-leader: PM makes Trump plan a 'stunt'

By ARON HELLER
Associated Press

Sebastian Scheiner / AP

Israeli Knesset member, Yair Lapid, gives an interview in 2016 in his office at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM — A leading Israeli opposition figure said Monday that embattled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has turned a U.S. initiative for ending conflict with the Palestinians into a campaign "stunt" by pushing for the immediate annexation of West Bank settlements.

Co-leader of the Blue and White party Yair Lapid insisted he was against unilateral steps endangering what he described as President Donald Trump's promising Mideast plan. He expressed hope that the Palestinians would come around to negotiating based upon the U.S. blueprint.

Lapid is slated to become Israel's next foreign minister if his party prevails in the March 2 election and fellow party leader Benny Gantz wins the premiership.

"Nobody expects Israel or the Palestinians to take the plan face value the way it is and just make sure it happens. Everybody understands this is a framework, a very detailed one," he told an audience of foreign correspondents in Jerusalem, before zoning in on Netanyahu.

Lapid went on to condemn what he said was the prime minister's planned "unilateral steps" to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

"This is something that came out from the prime minister's office right after the plan was presented. Probably, it seems, for campaign reasons. And this is something you don't do. This is too serious to become a stunt in the campaign," he added.

The Trump plan is widely viewed as being favorable to Israel since it would allow it to eventually extend sovereignty over all of its West Bank settlements along with the strategic Jordan Valley.

The Palestinians have angrily rejected the U.S. plan since it would provide the Palestinians with limited autonomy in several chunks of territory with a capital on the outskirts of Jerusalem, and only if they meet stringent conditions.

Netanyahu has sought to sell the plan, and his close relationship to Trump, as a testament to his master statesmanship ahead of the country's third elections in less than a year. He's also seeking to galvanize his hard-line base by annexing territory ahead of the election. The proposed move could establish facts on the ground that would be difficult to reverse, and make the prospect of a contiguous Palestinian state all but impossible.

But he's been forced to walk that pledge back under criticism from the typically like-minded Trump administration that has chided Israel's zest for annexation.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman reiterated that concern, saying Sunday that such a move was "subject to the completion of a mapping process by a joint Israeli-American committee," and warning that rushing it undermines the plan.

"The president put out a plan for the next hundred years, not the next 30 days," he said, alluding to the upcoming election.

Visiting the Jordan Valley on Monday for a tree planting ceremony, Netanyahu insisted he'd be patient and only impose Israeli law on any territory there "in agreement with the Americans."

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem – areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war – for an independent state. The U.S. is eager to keep the option of statehood on the table.

Lapid, whose centrist party is seeking to unseat Netanyahu, would not detail how his vision differed from Netanyahu's beyond saying he would favor direct negotiation with the Palestinians rather than imposing a framework upon them.

"We are against anything that is unilateral," he said.

At the same time, he called on Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to drop his intransigence, realize that time is not working in his favor and take a serious look at the plan as a basis for talks.

"Our approach to the Palestinians is to tell them that always saying 'no' isn't a policy," he said. "If instead of always automatically responding with violence and threats, they will take the time to delve deeply into the Trump plan they will see that it contains many opportunities for the Palestinian people."

Fierce storm causes deaths, damage and delays across Europe

By FRANK JORDANS and PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

Nick Ansell

A view of a Toyota car in a sinkhole which appeared overnight in the aftermath of Storm Ciara, in Brentwood, England, on Monday.

BERLIN — A storm battered Europe with hurricane-force winds and heavy rains, killing at least seven people and causing severe travel disruptions as it moved eastward across the continent Monday and bore down on Germany.

After striking Britain and Ireland on Sunday, the storm moved on, leaving a trail of damage including power cuts for tens of thousands of homes across Europe.

A woman and her 15-year-old daughter died in Poland after the storm ripped off the roof of a ski rental equipment building in the mountain resort of Bukowina Tatrzanska and sent it hurtling onto people standing near a ski lift, police said. Three people also were injured in the incident.

In Sweden, one man drowned after the boat he and another person were sailing in on the southern lake of Fegen capsized. The victim was washed ashore and later died. The other person is still missing, according to the Aftonbladet daily.

Two men, one in the north of Slovenia and another in southern England, also died after their cars were hit by falling trees. And in Germany, a driver died after crashing his truck into a trailer parked by workers clearing storm debris off a highway in the southern state of Hesse.

Police in the Czech Republic said the storm likely was to blame for a car accident that killed the man driving and injured a woman passenger. Investigators think a tree fell on the car, which skidded off the road and and overturned.

The number of Czech households without electricity reached 290,000, according to power company CEZ.

Britain, which bore the brunt of the storm on Sunday, was assessing the damage and working to get power restored to 20,000 homes. However, for parts of northern England and Scotland, the respite is set to be brief, with forecasts of blizzards and snow.

Many parts of the country were mopping up after a month and a half's rain fell in just 24 hours in some places and rivers burst their banks. Though 360 flood warnings have been removed as the storm moves on, around 75 remain in place across the country.

The River Irwell burst its banks in northwest England, prompting authorities to evacuate residents. And in the Scottish town of Hawick, which borders England, a guest house and bistro collapsed into the raging River Teviot. No one was injured.

In another dramatic scene, a driver managed to escape unhurt in the early hours of Monday when a car fell nose-first into a sinkhole in a residential street in the town of Brentwood, east of London. Six properties had to be evacuated due to the unstable ground that is said to have been linked to a partially collapsed sewer. The emergency services made the scene safe just before daybreak.

The British government said it was offering financial compensation through its emergency Bellwin scheme. Under the scheme, local authorities dealing with the storm can apply to have certain costs reimbursed.

Transport authorities were also working hard to clear up the mess. Network Rail, which runs the country's rail infrastructure, said thousands of engineers had "battled horrendous conditions" after the storm blew trees, sheds, roofs and even trampolines onto the tracks.

Ferries were operating across the English Channel after being closed down on Sunday, though P&O Ferries said in a tweet that further disruptions were possible.

Airlines operating to and from U.K. airports were still being affected by the storm, with more than 100 flights canceled.

"We're getting in touch with those affected, and have brought in extra customer teams to help them with a range of options including a full refund or an alternative flight between now and Thursday," British Airways said in a statement.

The storm had largely passed through France by midday, though meteorologists warned that the Mediterranean island of Corsica could later see winds as high as 124 mph. Up to 130,000 homes stretching from Brittany, in western France, through Normandy and the northern regions were without power Monday morning.

A bridge too far? UK looks at linking Scotland, N Ireland

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — The British government said Monday it is seriously studying the feasibility of a bridge between Scotland and Northern Ireland, an audacious idea that has been floated by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Johnson's spokesman, James Slack, said the proposal was being taken seriously and "a range of officials" were studying it.

"There is a proper piece of work being undertaken into this idea," he said. "The PM is ambitious in terms of infrastructure projects."

Johnson has promised to build major new infrastructure to better connect parts of the U.K. in the wake of Britain's divisive exit from the European Union. He also has vowed to boost regions outside the economically dominant southeast of England.

He has mentioned the bridge idea several times, and claimed it would "only cost about 15 billion pounds."

But engineers say spanning the deep and stormy Irish Sea would be difficult. The distance is 12 miles at its narrowest; one of the most likely routes for a bridge, between Larne in Northern Ireland and Portpatrick in Scotland, is about 28 miles.

The water is up to 1,000 feet deep and the sea bed holds thousands of unexploded bombs dumped by Britain's defense ministry after World War II.

Johnson has a mixed track record with big projects. As mayor of London between 2008 and 2016 he touted a "Boris Island" airport in the River Thames estuary and a lush "garden bridge" in the middle of the city. Neither was ever built.

Ian Firth, a fellow at the Institution of Civil Engineers, said building a Scotland-Northern Ireland bridge had "a huge number of technical challenges" but was probably achievable.

"At the end of the day it's about money," he said. "Anything is possible if you throw enough money at it."

Markus Schreiber / AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, right, and CDU party chairwoman and Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, left, attend a party's board meeting at the headquarters in Berlin, Germany, on Monday.

German politics upended as Merkel's heir apparent quits

By FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel's heir apparent shook up German politics Monday by declaring she would step down as the governing party's leader and not run for chancellor, fueling uncertainty in the country seen as Europe's anchor of stability amid Brexit and pressure from the far right.

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, whose flagging support dropped further after regional Christian Democratic Union lawmakers ignored the party's instructions, told senior CDU members she won't seek the chancellorship in next year's election. The surprise decision upended Merkel's plan to hand Kramp-Karrenbauer the reins after leading Germany for more than 15 years.

"I took note of this decision with the utmost respect, but I also say that I regret it," Merkel told reporters, thanking Kramp-Karrenbauer for her work and for agreeing to stay on until a new party leader is chosen. Kramp-Karrenbauer plans to remain in her role as Germany's defense minister.

The announcement followed days of in-fighting within the party over the election of a governor in the state of Thuringia. Christian Democratic Union legislators there voted with the far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD) last week to oust a left-wing incumbent.

The CDU representatives not only defied Kramp-Karrenbauer's advance appeals and undermined her leadership, but broke what is widely regarded as a taboo in postwar German politics around cooperating with extremist parties.

"The AfD stands against everything we as the CDU represent," Kramp-Karrenbauer told reporters Monday in Berlin.

Manfred Weber, a German member of the European Union parliament who leads a center-right bloc in the EU legislature, told daily newspaper Welt that the situation in Thuringia reflected a Europe that "is in a phase of growing instability; politics is becoming more serious."

"In general. it is a sign of growing instability among the parties of the middle all across Europe. The parties of the middle must draw their red line to those with radical right tendencies,"Weber said. "This approach from Kramp-Karrenbauer was and is correct."

Merkel has said she will not run for a fifth term in Germany's next general election, which is now scheduled for fall 2021. But any shift to the right by the Christian Democrats could trigger a breakup of Merkel's federal coalition with the center-left Social Democrats and increase the chances of an early national election.

"If it's up to me, it won't have any effect on the stability of the grand coalition," Kramp-Karrenbauer said after announcing her planned withdrawal.

Florian Hense, an analyst at Hamburg-based private bank Berenberg, said the Social Democrats "would have little to gain from provoking early elections."

But leading figures in Merkel's party expressed concerns about fallout from the announcement.

Peter Altmaier, Germany's economy minister and a close Merkel ally, said the Christian Democrats were in "an unusually serious situation."

Recent polls had Merkel's conservative block at about 28 percent support nationally, followed by the left-leaning Greens at about 22 percent. The Social Democrats are struggling with only about 14 percent support, about the same as the far-right Alternative for Germany.

Among the names currently being bandied around as future CDU party leaders are Health Minister Jens Spahn and Friedrich Merz, who were beaten to the leadership by Kramp-Karrenbauer in 2018. Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state, is also being mentioned as a possible contender.

While Spahn and Laschet are considered centrists, Merz has tried to appeal to the conservative wing of the party that has flirted with the far-right Alternative for Germany. A lawyer once tipped to lead the party in the early 2000s, Merz was sidelined by Merkel before she became chancellor in 2005.

Bavarian governor Markus Soeder, the leader of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian-only sister party to Merkel's CDU, is also the focus of some speculation.

Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters in Berlin that she stood by her decision not to run for a fifth term in 2021, despite the latest development.

The Alternative for Germany welcomed Kramp-Karrenbauer's resignation, as did Germany's former domestic intelligence head, Hans-Georg Maassen, a vocal figure on the right of Merkel's party since his ouster as Germany's spy chief in 2018.

Alternative for Germany has established itself as a powerful far-right force since its founding in 2013, taking double-digit shares of the vote in regional and national elections. Its success has complicated Germany's political tradition of governing with multi-party coalitions, as most of its rivals have ruled out working with Alternative for Germany.

The far-right party has successfully wielded populist tactics, emphasizing national self-interest and immigration controls while tolerating anti-Semitism and historical revisionism among its members.

Alternative for Germany's leader in the state of Thuringia, Bjoern Hoecke, has in the past marched alongside far-right extremists and called for a "180-turn" in the way the country commemorates its Nazi past.

Kramp-Karrenbauer insisted that any Christian Democrats who believe their party can find common ground with AfD should ask themselves "whether they can remain members of the CDU."

Germany's foreign minister said on Twitter it was important for all parties to take a "crystal clear position against far-right extremism."

"Whoever becomes the new chairman of the CDU needs to ensure that the party remains a reliable partner," Heiko Maas, a member of the Social Democrats, tweeted. "This means the party must draw a line between itself and far-right extremists at all levels."

The Herald-Palladium

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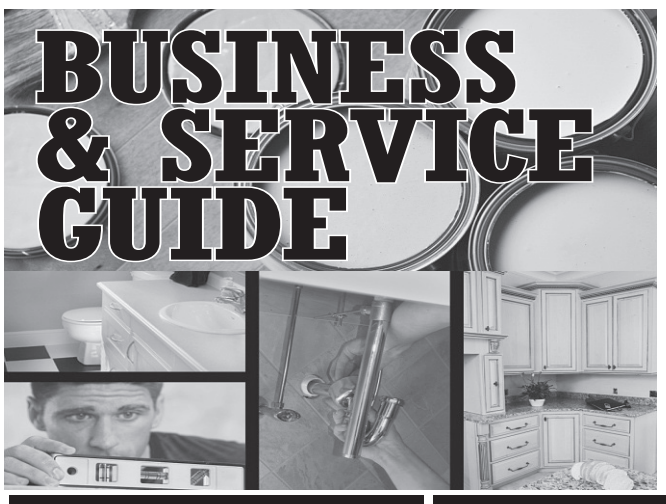
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

monster



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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Take any opportunity you get to meet people and expand your interests and knowledge. Reaching out to people from different backgrounds will help you put your life in perspective and make it easier for you to venture in a direction you never before considered. Romance is favored.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Advancement will unexpectedly come your way. Be reluctant to give others too much information about your past, present or plans. Make romance a priority.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Deception regarding joint finances is likely. You are best off working alone and protecting your cash and possessions. Take care of your health, and avoid aggressive situations.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Opportunities to advance are likely if you work hard and exploit your talents. Present your ideas or consider starting your own business. Make interesting plans with a loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Make plans with people who bring out the best in you. Your ideas will be well received, and a joint venture will intrigue you. Listen and learn.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Physical improvement is featured. Whether it's a change of location or an update to your image, the adjustments you make will inspire you to excel. Romance will enhance your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Stick to basics, finish what you start and be true to your beliefs. The changes others make should not tempt you to follow suit. Your intuition is trustworthy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) An impulsive move will be disappointing. Keep a low profile, listen, learn and adapt to the changes going on around you. You must make the most out of whatever situation you face.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Emotions will surface if you are too sensitive or let someone bully you. Get involved in social functions or activities that deal with children or seniors to find some inspiration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Refuse to let what others do or say confuse you. Focus on what you can do to make a difference and how you can improve your life. A romantic gesture is encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Getting involved in events that will spark business opportunities or romance is encouraged. You will gain valuable information from someone very different from you. Expect your beliefs to be tested.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Keep personal information to yourself. Step into the spotlight if you can clarify a situation that others find confusing. An idea you have looks promising, and romance is featured.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Travel will be informative and rewarding. You will gain insight into intriguing lifestyles that suit your current frame of mind. Don't hesitate to make a move. Romance is on the rise.

Responding to employment ads that contain a Herald-Palladium box #

No telephone calls please! We will not reveal the name of the box holder.

(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

Box (# that appears in ad)
c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER E N V E L O P E addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

E-Mail Responses

You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

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To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges

Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
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$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis.
$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.
When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

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LEGALS

LEGALS

Hagar Township will hold the March 2020 Board of Review Meetings at the Hagar Township Hall, 3900 Riverside Rd, Riverside MI 49084
The meeting dates are as follows: Organizational meeting: Tuesday March 3, 2020, 7:30pm
Board of Review meetings: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9am-3pm and Thursday, March 12, 2020, 1:30pm-4:30pm and 6pm-9pm.

All classifications are at a tentative 1.0 factor.
101 Ratio 50%
201 Ratio 50%
301 Ratio 50%
401 Ratio 50%

Appointments can be made by calling Hagar Township Hall 269-849-0455
Letters of Protest will be accepted if received by March 10, 2020 at 5pm.

Sell your unwanted items quickly with a classified ad.

LEGALS

Public Hearing
Zoning Amendment

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for Lake Charter Township, Berrien County, Michigan, will hold a public hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2020 at the Lake Township Hall, 3220 Shawnee Road, Bridgman, MI 49106 to make a recommendation to the Lake Charter Township Board on the following zoning amendment to the Lake Charter Township Zoning Ordinance:
The Planning Commission, as a Special Land Use Permit, has initiated the following proposed amendment:
To add to the R-1, Single-family, R-2, Multi-family, and the R-AG, Residential-agricultural districts an amendment which would allow for a second temporary home to be placed on property occupied by the owner for medical and elderly hardship conditions. Copies of the proposed amendment are available for review at the front counter of the Lake Charter Township Hall.

Written comments concerning this proposal will be received by the Chairman of the Planning Commission, c/o Lake Charter Township, P.O. Box 818, Bridgman, MI 49106 or at the Lake Township Hall during business hours. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Said public hearing is accessible. Persons requiring auxiliary aides and services or other accommodations should contact, by one (1) week's prior notice in writing or by telephone, Lake Charter Township, P.O. Box 818, Bridgman, MI 49106 or call (269) 465-6601.

James Gast
Dated:2-10-20
Zoning Administrator

NOTICE
Special Meeting
for the Village of Lawrence
to be held on
Thursday, February 13, 2020
at 6:00 PM
for a Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure and Resiliency Application (Michigan Economic Development Corporation)
Allows citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on proposed application and community development for James Street lift station, School lift station and communication updates for water system.

Posted 2/7/2020
Lucinda R Nower
Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

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GENERAL HELP

South Haven, MI. The City of South Haven is seeking a Community Development Director to work with the City's economic development team to achieve business retention, expansion, and attraction goals. This position requires knowledge normally acquired through the completion of a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Planning, Economics, Marketing or a related field. CEcD designation preferable. Three years' experience in economic development, project management, or related experience preferred. To see the full job description and to apply, visit the Human Resources page at *www.southhaven.com.* Deadline for application is February 28, 2020. EOE

GENERAL HELP

the full job description and to apply, visit the Human Resources page at *www.southhaven.com.* Deadline for application is February 28, 2020. EOE

SKILLED TRADE

LaPorte County Circuit Court is currently seeking a Family Recovery Court Coordinator/ Juvenile Mental Health Court Coordinator. This is a contract position and will be classified as an Independent Contractor. This position is responsible for the administration, management and coordination of FRC and JMHC services and day to day operations. Qualified applicants must have Baccalaureate degree and 3yrs experience in criminal justice or human services or advanced degree in criminal justice or human services or employed by a Problem-solving Court as a Coordinator prior to July 1, 2010. Full job description and position requirements are available at www.laportecounty.org. For consideration, please submit a cover letter and resume to Human Resources, 555 Michigan Ave, Ste 101, LaPorte by 02/21/2020.

LaPorte County Maintenance is hiring for part time Janitor. This position is responsible for general maintenance and cleaning of County buildings. Applicants must be as least 18yrs old, have a high school diploma or GED and knowledge of chemicals and cleaning products. Full job description and employment application is available at www.laportecounty.org/employment or Human Resources, 555 Michigan Ave, Ste 101, LaPorte. EOE M/F/V/D

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NOW HIRING
Permanent, part-time bus drivers 20 – 29 hours per week.
Van Buren Public Transit offers paid training, starting wage of $14.41 per hour, a 457b retirement plan, as well as friendly, helpful staff and co-workers. If you enjoy working with the public, are reliable and safety minded, then Van Buren Public Transit may be right for you!
CDL with P endorsement needed, but will train if hired.
Knowledge of service area a plus!
Applications available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Van Buren Public Transit, 610 David Walton Drive, Bangor, Michigan 49013; or online at: http://www.vbco.org/pages6061122.asp
EOE

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Rolling Prairie, IN
Co-Alliance: Hiring Seasonal Truck Drivers and General Laborers. Ideal candidates will have Class A, B, or Ag CDL (or willing to obtain) with acceptable driving history and current DOT physical. Must be able to meet the physical demands of the position and work overtime. Must pass background check and drug screen. Apply at www.co-alliance.com or in person at 310 S Prairie St, Rolling Prarie, IN 46371:
(219-778-2015)

People Do Read Small Ads. You Did!

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Coloma, MI
COLOMA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS has several opportunities available for Substitute School Bus Drivers and Substitute Van Drivers. A current CDL is preferred for the bus driver position or school district will train.
Wage is $14.60 to $17.24/hr BOE.
A chauffeurs endorsement is required for the van driver position and wage is $12.60/hr.
Apply at www.ccs.coloma.org/jobpostings/
Questions can be directed to tlampros@ccs.coloma.org or call 269-468-2433
Coloma Community Schools
Admin Office
302 W St Joseph St
Coloma, MI 49038
269-468-2424
COLOMA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IS AN EOE

Union Mills, IN
Co-Alliance: Hiring Seasonal Truck Drivers and General Laborers. Ideal candidates will have Class A, B, or Ag CDL (or willing to obtain) with acceptable driving history and current DOT physical. Must be able to meet the physical demands of the position and work overtime. Must pass background check and drug screen. Apply at www.co-alliance.com or in person at 3551 W 800 S Union Mills, IN 46382
(219-767-2251)

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

MERCHANDISE

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE

Benton Harbor, MI
3 Pillars Music is looking to buy record albums from 1970s to present, older guitars and music memorabilia. Please contact Tom at 269-313-7001 or 3pillarsmusic@gmail.com

Watervliet, MI
Buying junk Vehicles & Scrap Metal
Call Ray @
269-463-3565

MISC. ITEMS FOR SALE

Beauty Salon in Michigan City for Lease. Long Established and Highly Successful. Beauty Equipment For Sale. Call 972-824-1007 for Information.

Michigan City, IN
Upright, Starck brand piano
Selling for $300 or best offer

Wurlitzer brand double keyboard organ, no pedals
Selling for $400 or best offer

Call Pastor Kimberley Williams:
616-589-7508

PETS

CATS/DOGS/PETS

Benton Harbor, MI
For sale: 10 X 10 Dog kennel with roof. $200. Call 269-925-6059

FARM

TRANSPORTATION

Buy It. Sell It. Find It. CLASSIFIED.